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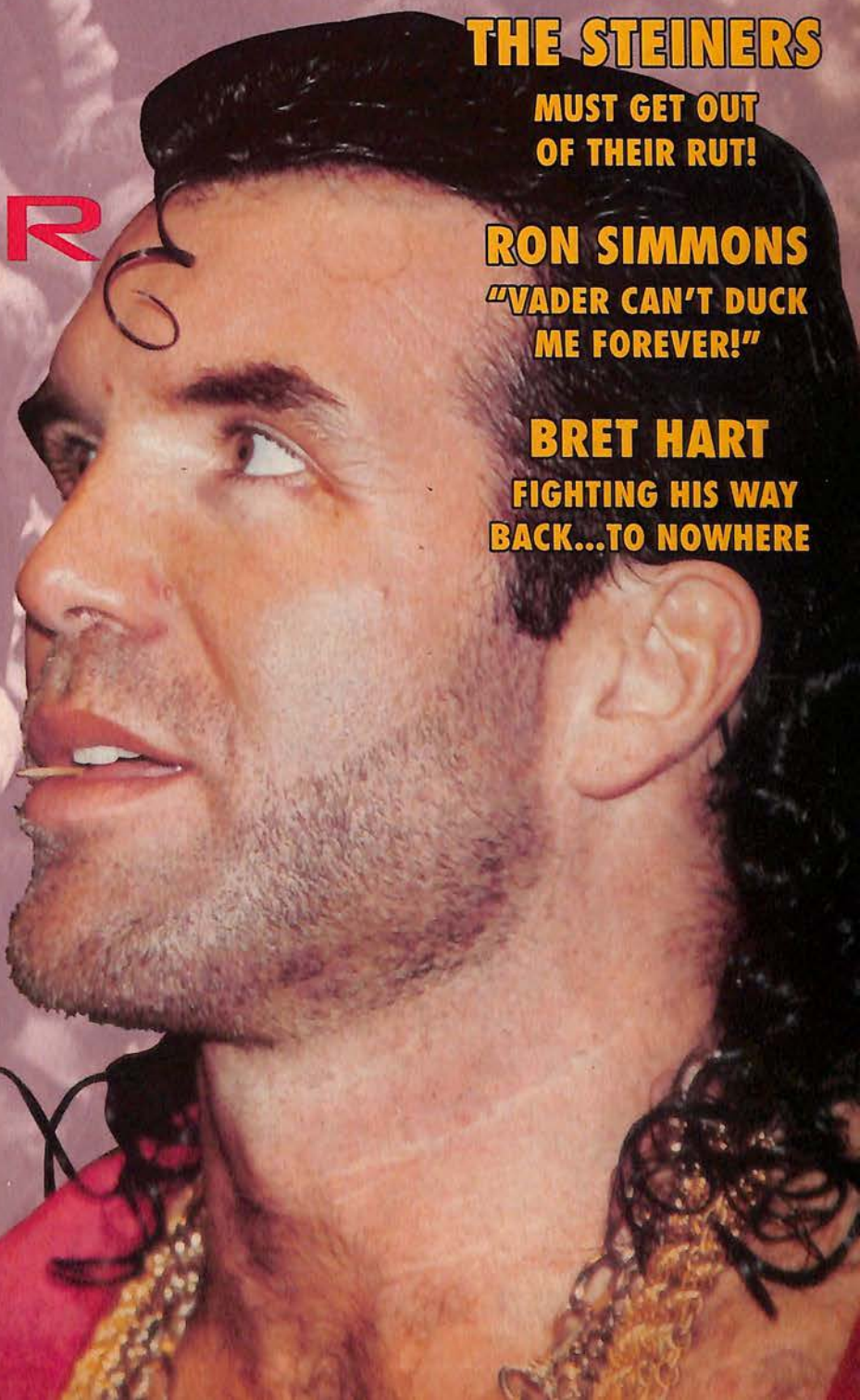
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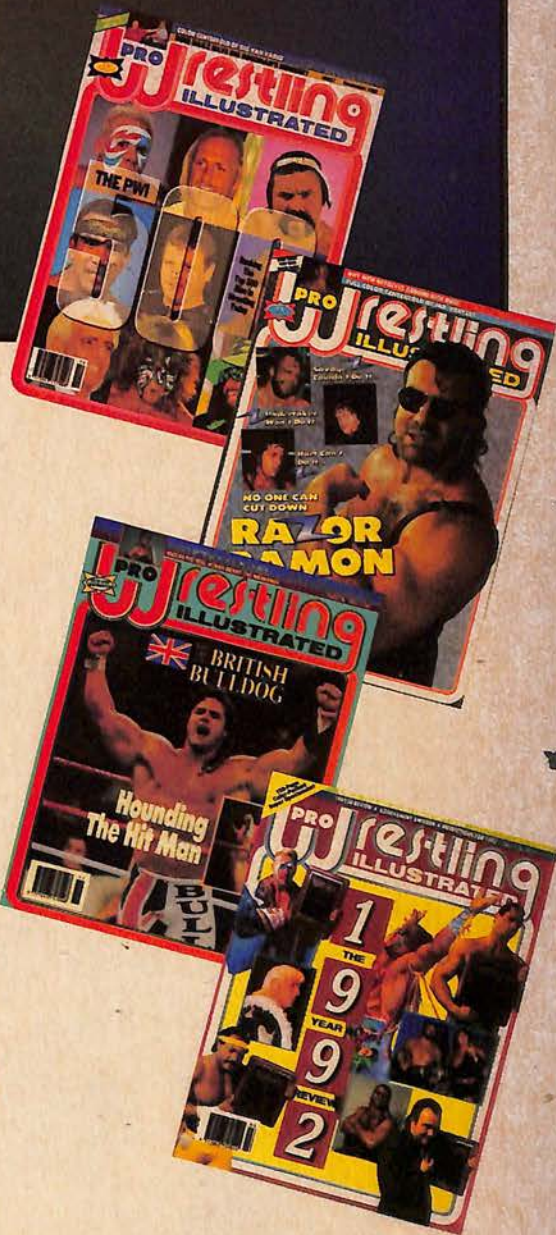
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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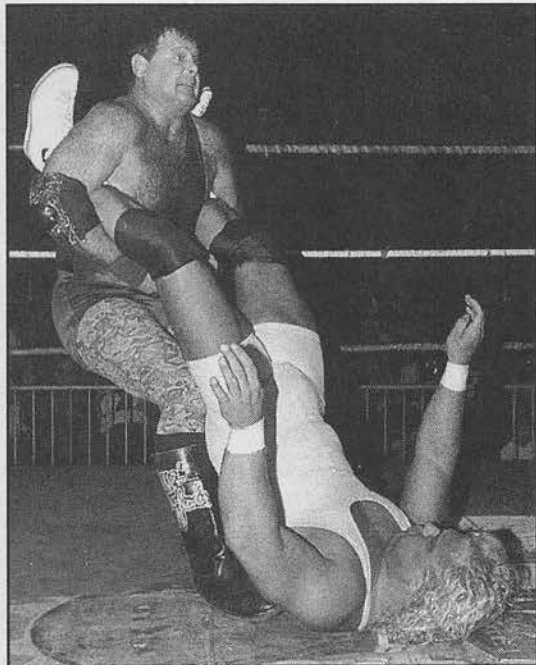
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Sincerely Yours

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Jerry "The King" Lawler is no longer top dog in Memphis, yet he still tends to let his mouth run out of control, notes reader Richard Evans.

ONE LAWLER TO GO

Jerry Lawler is certainly full of himself, as well as something else. I am referring to the June 1993 "Hotseat" ("Jerry Lawler: 'Now You Can Call Me WWF King!']"). Here is clearly an example of a man who wants to have his cake and eat it, too, a fan favorite in the USWA and a rule-breaker in the WWF.

While Lawler correctly stated that the WWF ignored the USWA/CWA for years and considered them minor league, he

shouldn't take it personally. The WWF acted for years as if it was the only wrestling organization on earth—except when it came to talent raids. Lawler claims his actions and speech in the WWF are nothing more than an attempt to set the record straight, and that he would rather be right than popular. Unfortunately he is neither.

The "Memphis Queen" may boast of victories past and present over Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, Curt Hennig, and Lex Luger. What he fails to mention is that all occurred via disqualification, countout, or reverse decision. Furthermore, all occurred in his hometown of Memphis or other USWA cities, where he is that promotion's franchise.

"Burger King" is an appropriate moniker for Lawler. He certainly can tell some whoppers!

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

STEINERS HAVE STYLE

While I'm surprised Rick and Scott Steiner have joined the WWF, I won't be surprised if they capture the World tag team title. They are a class above anything—and I mean *anything*—presently in action.

Those who doubt they can handle the overweight, talentless Natural Disasters should remember last year in Japan. There, the Steiners took the IWGP title from Big Van Vader and Bam Bam Bigelow, who are bigger and probably better than the Disasters.

The Steiners are at home in any company, whether against a lighter team like Rick Steamboat and Shane Douglas or the much heavier ones. They proved that time and time again in WCW, and I'm confident Rick and Scott will get the job done in the WWF.

The Steiners have proven their wares everywhere they've gone, remarks reader Peter Cranthorne. He expects them to dethrone WWF tag team champs Money Inc.



That is, if they block the gangways to stop Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster from taking an early walk.

PETER CRANTHORNE
Herne Bay, England

CALLING MAIDENFORM

Watching the match on TBS between Cactus Jack and that overgrown hunk of lard Big Van Vader was just disgusting. Harley Race has always been yellow. As for that big blowhard Jesse Ventura, he is yellow, too. I've seen him wrestle "Playgirl" Buddy Rose, and he couldn't wrestle then.

I've been to matches since 1938, and some of these lard-buckets should wear brassieres. Let's also get some referees who have been to school so they can count to five.

HARVEY JOHNSON
Tacoma, WA

BRET'S GOT HART

After reading Mike Facciani's letter ("He's Back," June 1993), I felt obliged to reply. He called Bret Hart "a second-rate World champion" and said that Hulk

Bret Hart proved that he was a first-rate WWF World champion, according to reader David M. Miller. He doesn't think current champ Hulk Hogan will have the courage to defend the belt against Hart.

Hogan "would destroy this pretender to the throne." Now, I realize that Hart vs. Yokozuna is not as exciting as Hogan vs. Randy Savage or Ultimate Warrior, but it is still an intriguing matchup.

When Hart was champion, he took on anybody and everybody. Unlike Hogan, he defended his belt three or four times a week against the likes of Ric Flair, Shawn Michaels, and Virgil. Now that Hogan is champ, he'll defend the title whenever he wants to, against weaker opponents. The public should expect a very boring title reign.

Now, if Hogan were to take on Hart, Michaels, Curt Hennig, or Ted DiBiase, I would change my mind in a second. But until he does, Hogan is the second-rate champion.

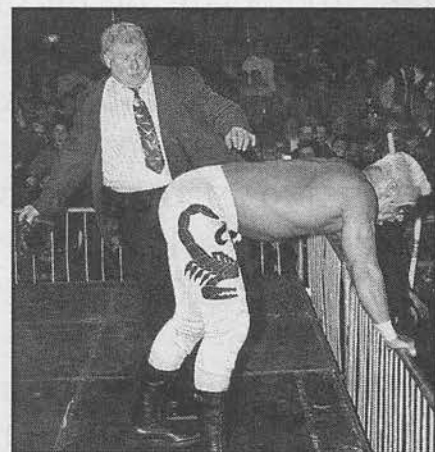
I wonder how Facciani can say Hogan would destroy Hart. Hogan won't face Hart because the "Hitman" is a better wrestler, not a brawler. While Hogan couldn't pin Ric Flair in their series of matches, Hart made

Flair submit en route to the WWF title. If he ever met Hogan, Hart would do the same thing.

DAVID M. MILLER
Tucson, AZ

VADER: QUIT THE RACE

I think WCW should do something about Harley Race during Big Van Vader's title matches.



Harley Race is the reason Sting is not WCW heavyweight champion, in the opinion of reader Erin Pryor. She implores WCW to take action against the manager.

Sting would have been able to win the belt had Race not interfered. I personally believe that Vader does not need the services of Race any longer.

ERIN PRYOR
Hornell, NY

WHO NEEDS A CIRCUS?

I just finished watching *Monday Night Raw*, and I'm completely disgusted with the talent that has been wasted in the WWF circus. I've been a fan of real wrestling for 20 years, and can remember when Ric Flair started as a brown-haired rookie.

When I say the WWF is a circus, I mean it. Where else is

(continued on page 56)



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Vinnie Vegas recently took the biggest gamble of his professional career and hit big time. Putting it in terms that he and his ilk could best appreciate, he hit on 17 with the dealer showing 10 and was dealt a four. It might not have been a blackjack, but it was 21, and after a run of bad luck in WCW, he'll gladly take it.

Vegas, whose progress in WCW over the past couple of years can be measured in baby steps unbecoming a well-built seven-footer, took a giant leap backward, giving up his status as a participant to become a wrestler's bodyguard.

Great life.

"Vincent, would you mind picking up my sweaty wrestling tights and bringing them to be laundered?"

"Vincent, would you kindly step in front of me so that those fans won't shove their dirty autograph books in my face?"

As it turned out, Vegas didn't even give the world a chance to second-guess his decision. He was introduced by his employer, Shawn Michaels, shortly before Michaels' June 6 match with Intercontinental champion Marty Jannetty at the Knickerbocker Arena in Albany, New York. Before the fans and press could so much as snicker, they were watching Vegas trip Jannetty coming off the ropes, while Michaels rolled up the dazed champion and took back the title he had surprisingly lost to the same man three weeks before on national TV.

In terms of the stock market—which is gambling in its most respected form—what Vegas did was play the futures market. He grabbed hold of Michaels cheap, playing a hunch that his value would rise. It did, and now Vegas, if he is smart, will make the most of it. Michaels certainly knows Vegas' value, and he'll keep him well-fed, well-clothed, and well-paid to make it work for him.

Vegas may never win a world title, but he'll never be far away from the action. And that's all a good gambler can ever hope for.

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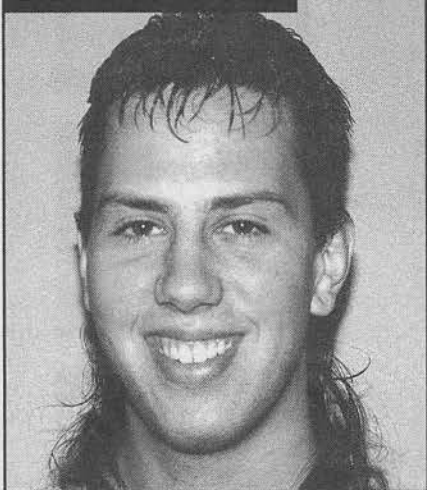
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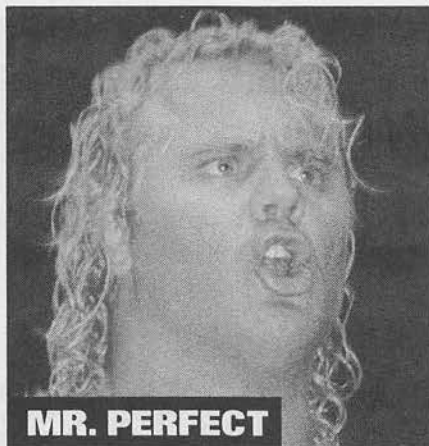
WHAT A MAGICAL night it was on May 17 in the Big Apple. Not only did **Shawn Michaels** lose the WWF Intercontinental title to his former Rockers' partner **Marty Jannetty**, but **The Kid** came out of nowhere to beat **Razor Ramon**. Both matches were seen live on *WWF Monday Night Raw*.

Ramon had controlled the match against The Kid from the opening bell, so the high-flying young man seemed well on his way to another ho-hum WWF loss.

Ramon, though, made the mistake of whipping his opponent into the corner. Seconds later, The Kid knocked Ramon for a loop with a backflipping, flying bodypress from the top rope and pinned him. This Kid's gone from relative WWF obscurity to relatively serious contender in the blink of an eye.

"I'm not sure what to think of The Kid," one WWF rulebreaker told me. "A week ago I'd have laughed at him and gladly taken a match against him as a nice preliminary tuneup. Now I'm not so sure. I thought he was beaten about two minutes into the Ramon match, but obviously that didn't happen."

Getting back to the Jannetty vs. Michaels match, it's "**Mr.**



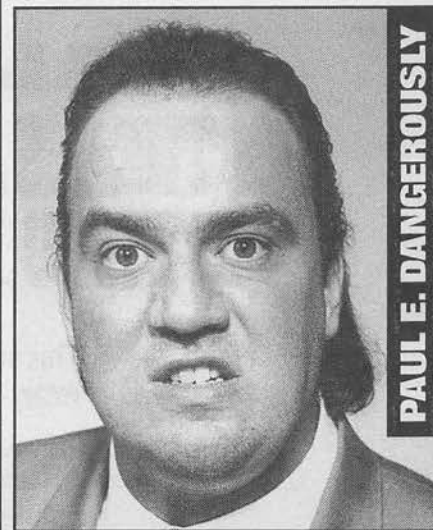
MR. PERFECT

Perfect **Curt Hennig** who should get some credit here. He came to ringside during the match, probably to make sure Michaels didn't pull one of his legendary disappearing acts when the going got tough. With Jannetty down, Michaels moved over to the ropes to taunt Hennig. "Mr. Perfect" threw his towel in Michaels' face, Jannetty cradled him for the pin, and bedlam ensued.

Seems a bit like what happened at *WrestleMania IX*. There **Hulk Hogan** came out of

nowhere to win the WWF World belt from **Yokozuna** on a challenge from **Mr. Fuji**. Here Jannetty came out of the audience and basically forced Michaels to accept his challenge. Let's hope Hennig doesn't regret helping Jannetty win a title he was chasing himself. Fact is, though, both major WWF titles are now held by fan favorites. Maybe this means we'll get the rare treat of seeing some fan favorites facing off against one another for WWF belts...

ECW is getting hotter and hotter by the day. It was reported here last month that **Paul E. Dangerously's Dangerous Alliance** was back and moving ahead full steam. Now there's dissension among the ranks. "**Hot Stuff**" **Eddie Gilbert** and **Dangerously** are bickering about what to call the organization. Gilbert wants "**Hot Stuff International**" in the name



PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

somewhere, somehow.

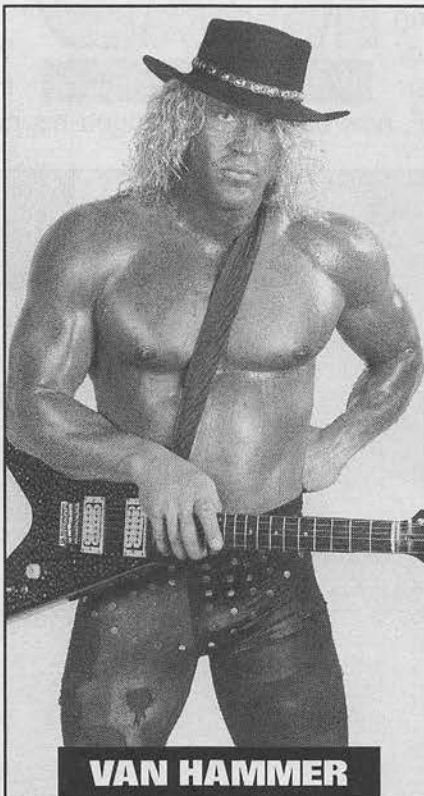
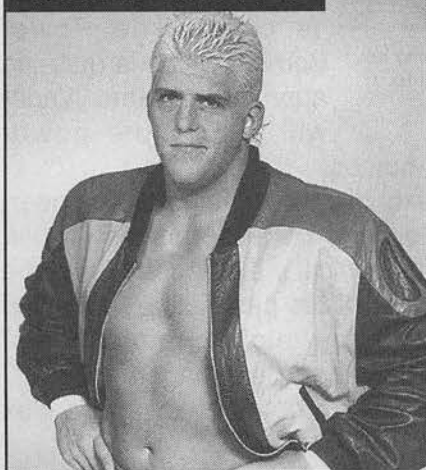
Dangerously is also bringing **The Dark Patriot** into the fold—without Gilbert's blessing. Patriot and Gilbert weren't the closest of *amigos* in Global last year. Gilbert won the GWF North American title from him there.

Add to this whole mix the history between current Dangerous Alliance members "**Superfly**" **Jimmy Snuka** and **Magnificent Muraco**, two guys who haven't exactly been at the top of each other's Christmas card list over the years.

After reading "One On One" between Dangerously and Gilbert on page 54, answer this question about the new Dangerous Alliance: Who is this alliance most dangerous to—their opponents or one another?

The feud between "**The Natural**" **Dustin Rhodes** and "**Ravishing**" **Rick Rude** is coming to a head. During a recent

DUSTIN RHODES



VAN HAMMER

match for the WCW U.S. title, the shoulders of both men appeared to be pinned for at least a two-count. Both men then lifted their shoulders at the last instant, and the question remained as to whose shoulders came up first and whether both made it before the count of three.

Rude vehemently insists his shoulders came up first and says he should be wearing Rhodes' belt. WCW officials have declared the title held up, and a further decision is forthcoming. Remember that Rhodes won the U.S. title under questionable circumstances, by countout over **Rick Steamboat**.

Meanwhile, **Col. Robert Parker** is making his mark in WCW. A so-called southern gentleman, Parker is already threatening the popular **Van Hammer** by not-so-subtly bringing a stretcher to ringside when Van Hammer wrestles, to show him how he plans to have him carried away from the ring at a future date. Hammer had turned down a Parker contract offer shortly after the colonel arrived.

If Parker plans to use the new weapon in his arsenal, **Sid Vicious**, against the up-and-coming Hammer, ol' Van might be overmatched.

And speaking of being overmatched, **Jim Cornette** has been *wrestling* with **The Heavenly Bodies** quite a bit of late. Yes, *wrestling*! Cornette's got former Smoky Mountain Commissioner **Bob Armstrong** on his tail. Cornette and company recently humiliated and injured Armstrong while the commissioner served as special referee in a 10-man cage match. Armstrong has since resigned as commissioner and applied for a wrestling license so he can get revenge on Cornette.

Armstrong might be past his prime, but if I were a wrestler (and *especially* if I were an out-of-shape manager), I wouldn't want old "Bullet Bob" on my bad side.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

WHEN A FRIEND told me that Sid Vicious was returning, I laughed. After all, Vicious has been dead for over 10 years. He killed his girlfriend in the Chelsea Hotel in New York, and after making bail, used a drug overdose to take his own life just days later. It was on the front page of all the tabloids. They even made a movie about it.

The friend gave me a wondering look. Not *that* Sid Vicious, he said. You know, Sid Vicious, the wrestler.

Big guy. Used to wrestle in the WWF, now back in WCW. The next Hulk Hogan, remember?

Yes, now I remember. And somehow, I find that even more preposterous.

You can imagine my shock when Sid Vicious, the former heir to the wrestling throne, returned to the sport after a one-year hiatus. As Lorne Greene would say, that's 84 years to you and me.

The oversized underachiever made his third beginning a triumphant one, defeating Van Hammer in 35 seconds at Slamboree '93. However, the victory probably illegitimized the NWA title contender status of Hammer more than it did confirm the dominance of Vicious. In fact, Sid probably felt

as though he were wrestling a younger version of himself.

Has any wrestler ever done less with more than Sid Vicious?

He has been described in no less a legitimate publication than this one as 318 pounds of solid muscle. This statement should have been retracted, because it is clear that ego shares as much of Sid's body as does muscle.

ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

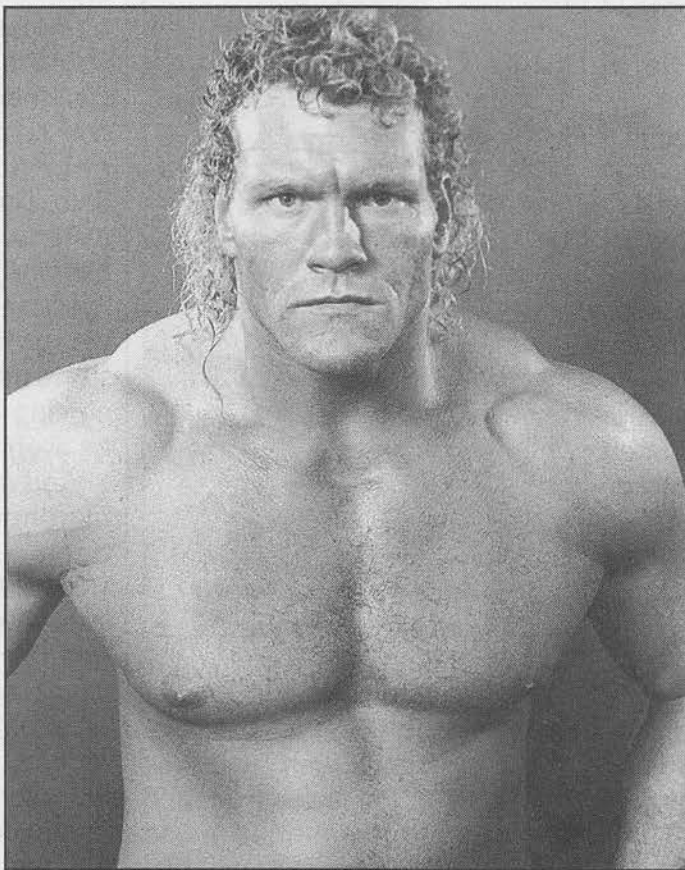
Sid's first stint in WCW ended when, as a teammate of Dan Spivey in The Skyscrapers, he suffered a bicep injury. During his lengthy rehabilitation, he was replaced by "Mean" Mark Callous. His return sparked a personality clash that destroyed a potentially great tag team. Left to his own devices, Vicious soon found himself unemployed.

Having tarnished his name in WCW, Sid set about accomplishing the same goal in the rival WWF. He changed his name to Sid Justice and entered the

federation in the swirl of claims touting him as "the next Hulk Hogan."

The two ended up battling at WrestleMania VIII, and even with the assistance of Papa Shango, Sid came up short. Hogan won both the match and the hearts of the fans, and an embarrassed Sid began planning another extended vacation.

Now, he has returned to WCW, again as Sid Vicious, coaxed out of inactivity by someone named Col. Robert Parker. Parker has struck a deal with Harley Race that will allow Vicious to team with WCW World champion Big Van Vader. The duo is called The Power Bombs, which is quite an appropriate name. Vader will supply the power



Sid Vicious is still nothing more than a huge, powerful wrestler who has accomplished next to nothing in the ring, according to columnist Chris Bernucca.

while Sid's career bombs.

For Vicious to exorcise the demons of his underachieving past, he should wrestle against Vader, not with him. In my cynical view, the only way he can erase the stigma of his past failures is to win the WCW World heavyweight championship, preferably without the help of a manager.

Unfortunately, there's a better chance of a Sex Pistols reunion. □

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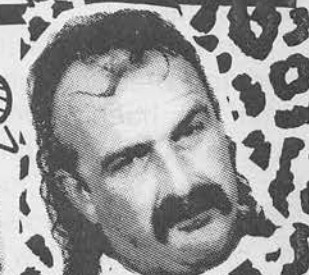
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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

showed, Van Hammer was the victim of a thorough pounding by Sid Vicious.

Maybe it shouldn't have come as such a shock. Vicious, at 6'8", 318 pounds, has been around the sport for seven years and is considered an under-achiever. Van Hammer, at 6'5", 290 pounds, is a relative newcomer after two years.

But Hammer's impressive upward move in WCW was stopped cold at Slamboree. Three of his hardest punches had absolutely no effect on Vicious, who came back with a knee, a clothesline, and a power bomb for the pin. The power bomb might have seriously injured Hammer, who was fortunate that he landed properly.

"Yeah, it stung," Hammer said. "But not as much as this."

while the losers are forgotten. Reporters gather around the winners in the locker room. The losers shower, get dressed, and answer one or two questions. They are allowed to suffer by themselves.

Bob Backlund once remarked that there's nothing lonelier than losing. People don't want to talk to you because they aren't sure how you'll react. Who knows, maybe a loser wants to be left alone.

And there's that word: loser. L-O-S-E-R. It looks ugly and is ugly.

"It's the one thing every wrestler fears," Sting said. "Injuries heal. A loss is always a loss. It's always on your record."

The great teams in pro

(Continued on page 62)

LOSING ISN'T EASY, especially when it happens so fast.

Van Hammer sat in the fan favorite's dressing room in The Omni, his head bowed and his voice reduced to barely a whisper. Slamboree '93 had turned into a public embarrassment for the big guy from New York City. Even worse, it turned into a nationally televised embarrassment.

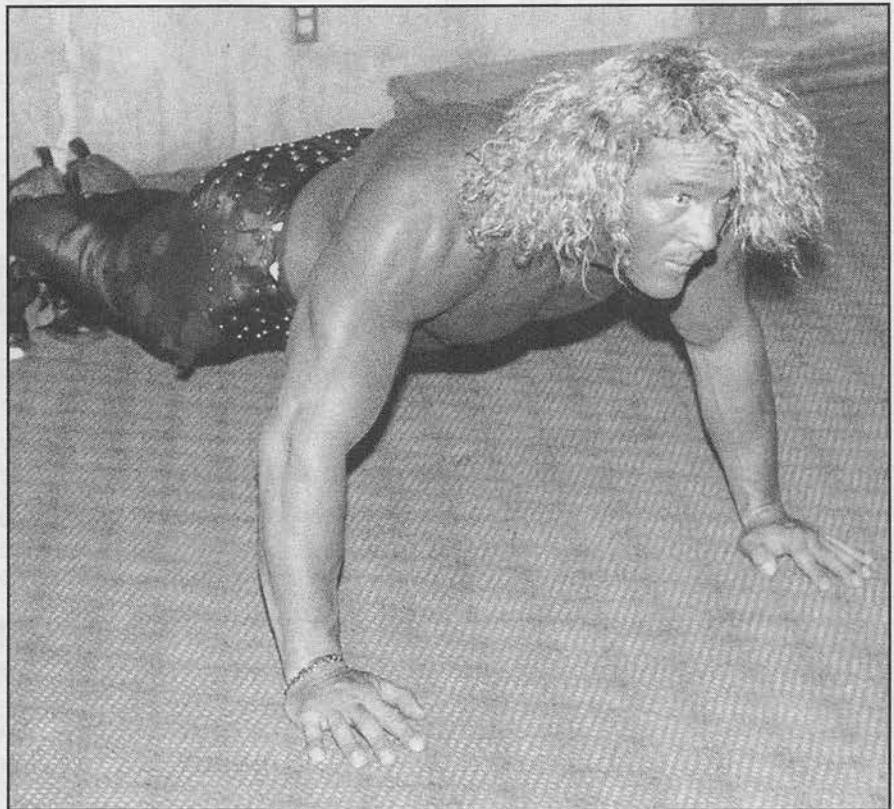
"How long did that take, about two minutes?" Van Hammer asked a reporter.

The reporter didn't answer immediately. He didn't know whether to tell him the truth or save the wrestler's pride with a lie. Finally, he opted for the truth.

"Thirty-five seconds."

"Thirty-five seconds? Are you kidding me?" Van Hammer replied.

But the reporter wasn't kidding and, as the videotape



Of course, he was referring to the loss.

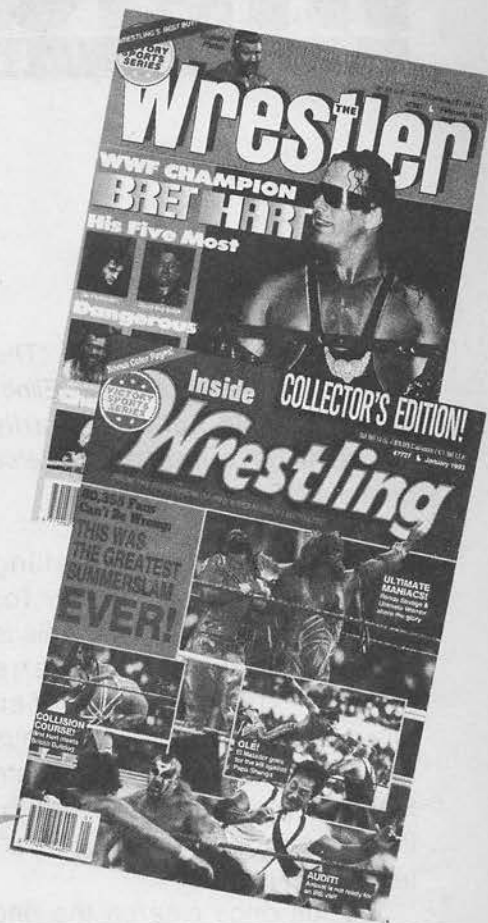
Winners always get the glory and attention at major cards,

Any loss, especially an embarrassing defeat seen live on national television, is the toughest thing a wrestler must face. Van Hammer is now looking at a long climb back after Sid Vicious pounded him at Slamboree.

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the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

Sid Vicious has always had the strength to bring any wrestler to his knees, but he tends to make bad decisions.

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

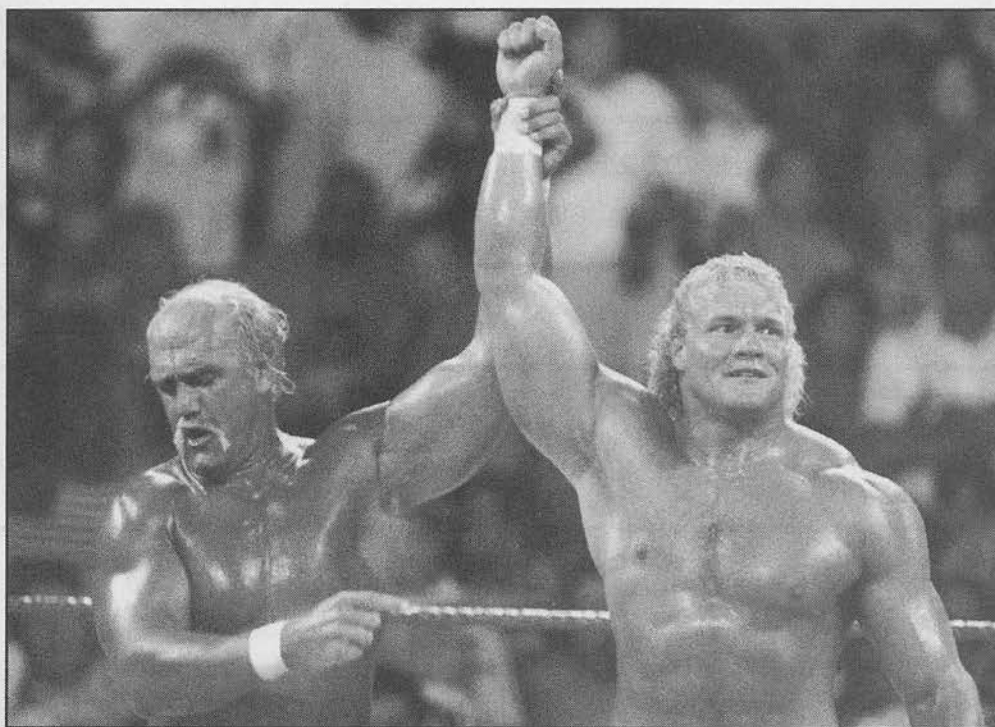
POLITICS AND wrestling share a penchant for strange bedfellows. This is clearly evident in the bizarre string of similarities between failed title contender Sid Vicious and failed presidential candidate Ross Perot. Both men established reputations through daring acts of rescue.

Vicious once cleared the ring

of five rulebreakers who attacked his then-partner Shane Douglas. This impressed Robert Fuller, who helped Vicious obtain a series of high-profile matches that buoyed his career. Perot, of course, engineered the famous rescue of his workers caught behind hostile Iranian lines.

Both Vicious and Perot are relentless competitors, willing to resort to any tactic necessary to

win. Vicious once broke the neck of Jamie Dundee with a Japanese cobra hold and in a two-week period sent 11 wrestlers to the hospital. Perot has compiled dossiers of infor-



Vicious' biggest WWF mistake, according to columnist Eddie Ellner, was associating with Hulk Hogan. He eventually turned against the "Hulkster."

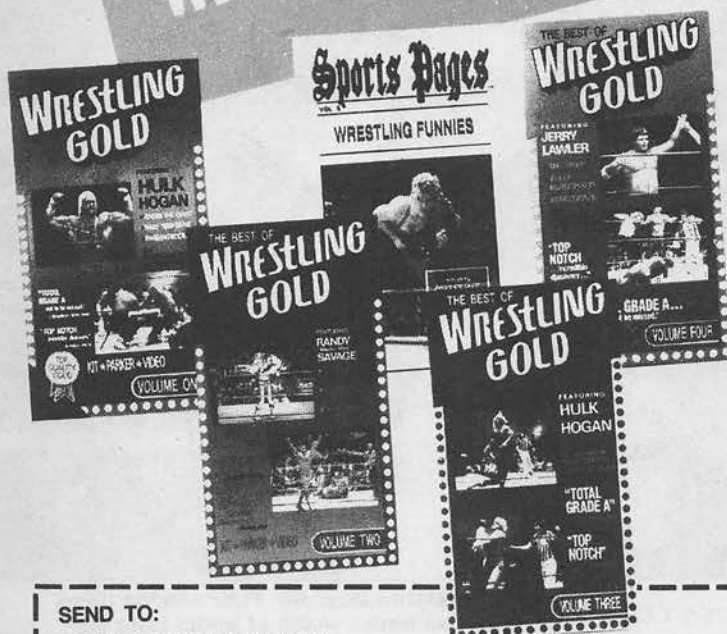
mation on the private lives of his employees and has been accused of bugging the offices of rival political enemies.

Both men seemed poised to rule their respective worlds. For most of last summer's campaign, Perot enjoyed a decisive advantage over Bill Clinton and George Bush; Vicious was considered a lock for a major title since his

(Continued on page 58)

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Randy Savage & Jerry Lawler vs. Rick Rude & King Kong Bundy (Shark Cage Match):
Jay Strongbow vs. Don Kent
Savage vs. Austin Idol

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Hulk Hogan vs. The Outlaw
Tully Blanchard & Gino Hernandez vs. Scott Casey & Magnum T.A.
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ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

I'M HAVING TROUBLE with words, which for a writer poses a considerable problem. I have in my possession two 60-minute cassette tapes worth of interviews with Ric Flair, yet I cannot seem to extract from them any worthwhile column material.

Yes, I know what you're thinking—Ric Flair is a columnist's dream, a walking, breathing human soundbite. But ... well, why don't you judge for yourselves.

On his stint in the WWF: "I came, I saw, I conquered, I left. What more do you want?"

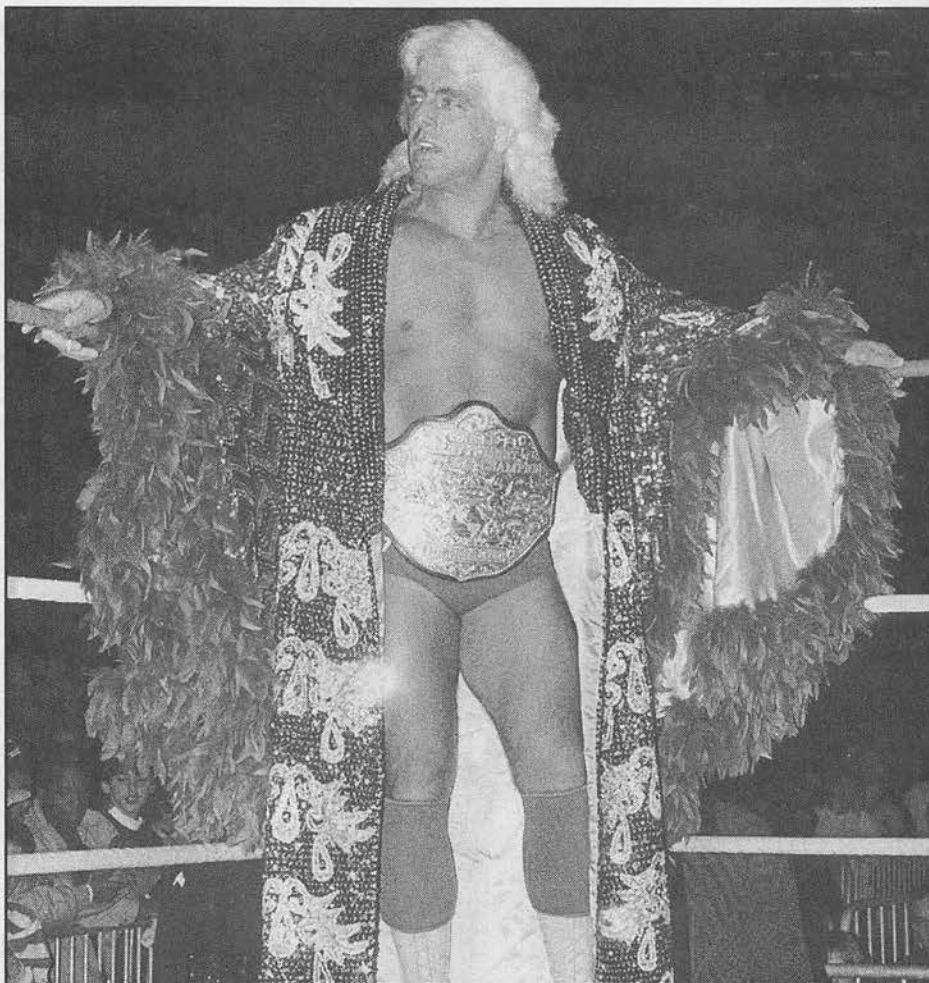
I wanted to know what was going through his head when he decided to submit to Bret Hart, a decision that cost him the WWF World heavyweight title. Remember, this was a man who would climb Mount Everest, murder a referee, and undergo gall bladder surgery before he'd sacrifice a title belt.

Flair once said, perhaps in a moment of weakness, that without a title belt he felt like half a man. It was, and still is, inconceivable that he would submit during a title match. So, "Nature Boy," what went through your head?

"No comment."

On his place in wrestling history: "I don't think about these things. History is for dead people."

What separates Flair from most other modern-day superstars is his sense of history. He



owns a priceless collection of old wrestling films and memorabilia, and they are not locked away in a dusty vault. Though he feigns a high profile, Flair is a tireless student of the sport, often spending weeks on end watching old matches.

Flair routinely draws comparisons between himself and men like Frank Gotch, Strangler Lewis, and Everett Marshall. It is no secret he wishes to be remembered in the same breath as the great champions of yore. So why the sudden change in attitude?

"Nature Boy" Ric Flair's voice filled two hours worth of audio tape during a recent interview with columnist Liz Hunter. In that two-hour span, Flair said practically nothing.

"No comment."

On whether his return to WCW means he will go after Van Vader's title? "I have the utmost respect for what Harley Race has done with Van Vader."

This was especially maddening. Flair is many things, but coy is certainly not one of them. If he

(Continued on page 60)

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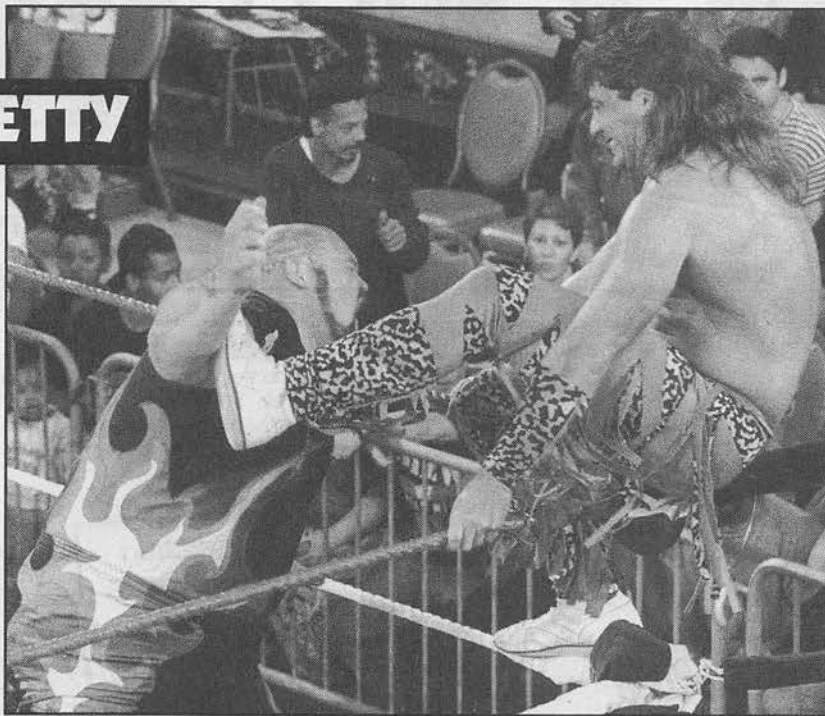
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INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE ²⁰⁶

MARTY JANNETTY

IN LAST YEAR'S *PWI* 500, Marty Jannetty was described as "on his own, but confused." On May 17 at New York's Manhattan Center, that confusion ended for good, when he shocked Shawn Michaels by capturing his Intercontinental belt on a *WWF Monday Night Raw* telecast ... Revenge was sweet for Jannetty, who had fallen out with his ex-Rockers partner; Michaels had once even rammed his head through a window (*"Michaels was to Marty what Moby Dick was to Captain Ahab"*) ... At the Royal Rumble, Jannetty had been forced to leave the WWF after losing to Michaels ... The 5'11", 230-pound Jannetty is a dynamic attacker with tremendous aerial abilities ... The Columbia, Georgia, native wrestled and played football at the University of Georgia, and twice reached the NCAA tournament at 178 pounds (*"How 'bout that Dawg?"*) ... Turned pro in 1984, and won a Central States heavyweight singles title a year later; he also captured tag team titles with Tommy Rogers and "Bulldog" Bob Brown (*"The fans in Des Moines were crazy about Marty"*) ... He also met Michaels at Central States late in 1985, and that was the partnership

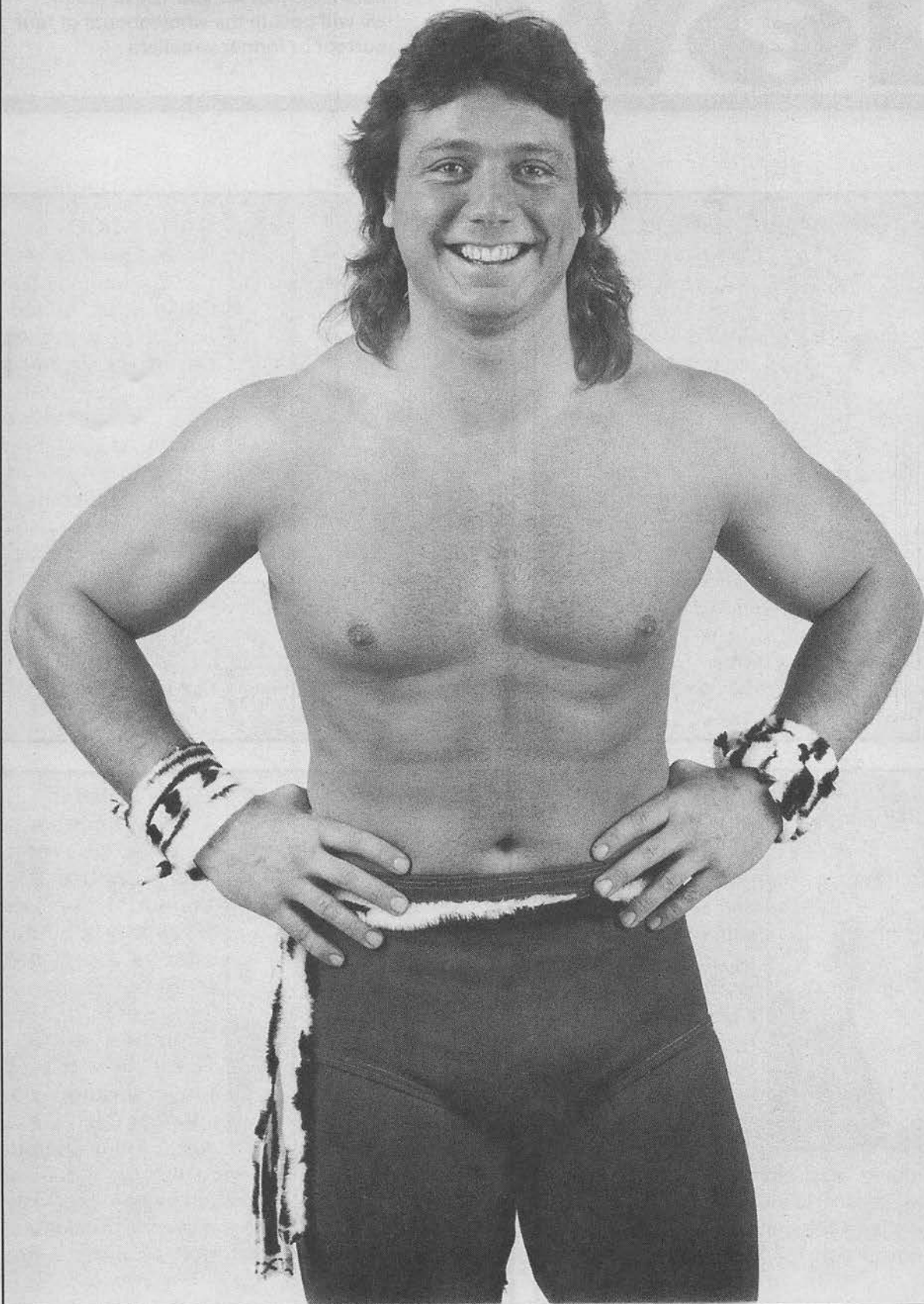
that really catapulted Jannetty to prominence ... In early-1986, Jannetty began singles work in the AWA, called Michaels to join him, and they formed The Midnight Rockers, so named for their penchant for partying (*"Only Prince rocked the Twin Cities harder"*) ... Their zebra outfits were especially popular with female fans ... The high-flying duo—one of the great aerial teams—made their mark in the AWA, twice winning the World tag team title in 1987 despite their youth and relatively small size (*"What maneuvers! What dedication to their craft!"*) ... They later had success in the WWF as The Rockers, though they never won the title ... But the two began feuding and split, and while Michaels quickly clicked as a solo, the less flamboyant Jannetty was stuck in the wilderness ... He moved to the



Marty Jannetty, kicking Bam Bam Bigelow away from the corner, finally established his own post-Rockers identity by winning the WWF I-C belt.

USWA in 1992, and briefly became a rulebreaker under the management of Bert Prentice (*"When you're desperate, you do things you regret later"*) ... Then he competed in Japan, losing a junior heavyweight title match to Naoki Sano ... Soon after his return to the WWF, he allied himself with Sensational Sherri, perhaps more to irritate Michaels than to help himself; ironically, Sherri once opposed The Rockers in AWA mixed tag team matches ... However, Jannetty's perseverance finally paid off, and he again is among the sport's top fan favorites ... Winning the I-C title has once and for all helped him cast away Michaels' shadow (*"At last, a solo identity!"*) □

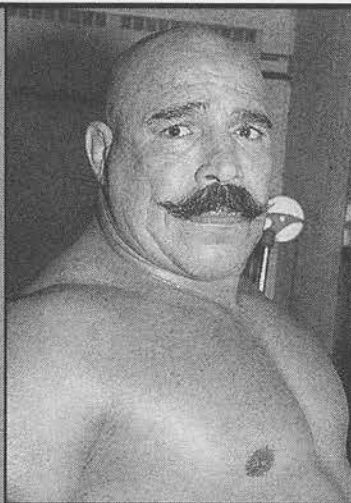
CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



MARTY JANNETTY

Where Are They NOW

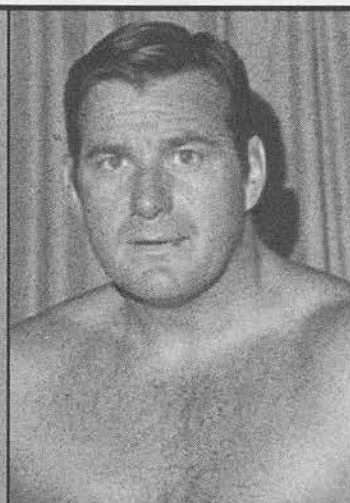
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



THE IRON SHEIK

The man who ended Bob Backlund's five-year reign as the WWF's World heavy-weight champion in December of 1983—only to lose the belt to Hulk Hogan a month later—now lives in Atlanta, and is preparing for a European tour. The 262-pound native of

Teheran, Iran, was perversely delighted that the "Hulkster" regained the title at WrestleMania IX. "Now that Hogan is champ," he told us, "I'll go back to the WWF and regain what was rightly mine!"



SANDY SCOTT

He and older brother George formed "The Flying Scotts," three-time NWA World tag team champions during the 1950s, and also achieved success with Nelson Royal two decades later. The Scottish-born, Ontario-raised Scott—winner of several handball

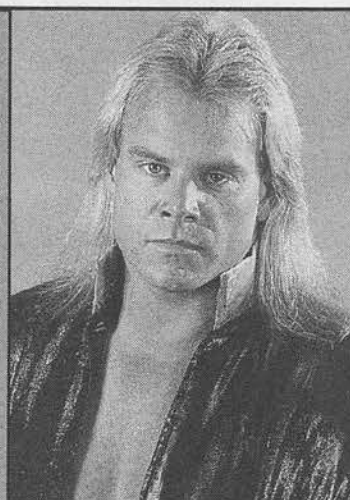
tournaments—then became an NWA administrator, and now is president of Smoky Mountain Wrestling. Under Scott's guidance, Smoky Mountain ranks among the fastest-growing independent federations.



BABY DOLL

This stunning blonde giantess (6'1", 180 pounds) briefly wrestled in the 1980s, but was best known as a valet and manager. Her greatest renown came alongside Dusty Rhodes, but she also aided Gino Hernandez, Tully Blanchard, and The Warlord, and had a

highly publicized feud with Jim Cornette. The native Texan—born Nickla Roberts to parents who both wrestled—recently left the sport, and is now a personal trainer in Charlotte, North Carolina.



STAN LANE

Things don't seem quite so heavenly right now for this member of The Heavenly Bodies, after he was pinned by Robert Gibson of The Rock 'n' Roll Express in a loser-leaves-Smoky Mountain tag team title match. "As a result, I'm headed to

the beach," said the 15-year veteran. "But I'm not taking this meekly. My attorneys are presently examining every detail of the prematch contract, and they'll do everything they can to get me reinstated."

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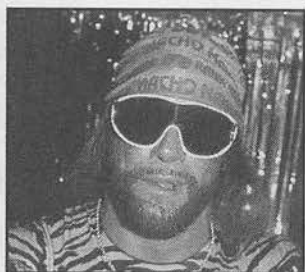
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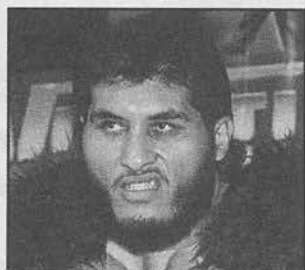
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NEWS FROM THE W

WORCESTER, MA By Enos Benton



RANDY SAVAGE VS. GIANT GONZALES



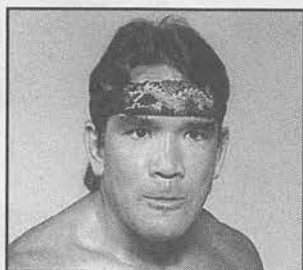
It's been said Giant Gonzales is his own worst enemy, and few at Memorial Auditorium will argue. The towering Argentinian was in the thick of things with the far more experienced Savage, and seemingly had a shot at victory entering the final minutes. Then Gonzales' temper got the best of him, and he began choking the "Macho Man." The referee told him to stop, but Gonzales refused, and thus lost the match by disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Adam Bomb (with manager Johnny Polo) made a successful WWF debut by defeating Louis Santonio ... The Undertaker defeated Bam Bam Bigelow, who was distracted by Tatanka entering the ring ... Mr. Hughes pinned Russ Greenburg ... Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels battled Crush to a double-countout ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat Mike Bell & Tony DiVito ... Bret Hart defeated Yokozuna by disqualification when Yokozuna hit Hart with the flagpole Mr. Fuji carried to the ring.

LOUISVILLE, KY By Susan E. White



BRIAN PILLMAN VS. RICK STEAMBOAT



Louisville Gardens was like Wrigley Field with the wind blowing in—doubles turned into singles. An injury to Shane Douglas forced partner Steamboat into a best-of-three falls solo match against Pillman, while Pillman's teammate, Steve Austin, sat out the action. Nevertheless, Pillman and Austin's NWA and WCW World tag team belts were on the line. Pillman won the first fall and Steamboat the second, setting up the deciding fall. It went to Pillman, and the "Hollywood Blonds" retained their titles.

OTHER BOUTS: In a tag match, Sting & Dustin Rhodes beat Rick Rude & Paul Orndorff by way of Sting's pin of Orndorff ... NWA heavyweight champ Barry Windham kept his belt by defeating Erik Watts ... Maxx Payne pinned Joey Maggs ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell defeated The Wrecking Crew when Scorpio pinned Fury ... Chris Benoit beat Steve Regal ... Van Hammer defeated Vinnie Vegas.

PHILADELPHIA, PA By Russ Piriano



JIMMY SNUKA VS. TERRY FUNK

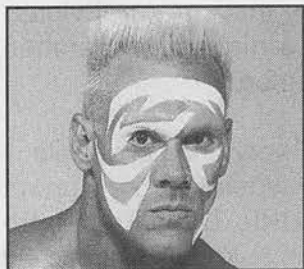


This match for Snuka's ECW TV title erupted into mayhem. Funk gave Snuka a dozen consecutive headbutts, but instead of retaliating, the champ joined Funk in headbutting the referee and two successors out of the ring. The entire federation left the dressing rooms and fought throughout the arena. Road Warrior Hawk later rescued Funk from strangulation by a hairdryer cord. Finally, commissioner Tod Gordon ruled a double disqualification—but was KO'd by Wildman Bellomo and left the building on a stretcher.

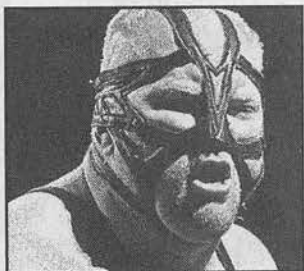
OTHER BOUTS: The Super Destroyers dethroned The Suicide Blonds as tag team champions...Eddie & Doug Gilbert beat J.T. Smith & Glen Osbourne...Ivan Koloff pinned Sandman...Funk defeated The Canadian Wolfman by submission... Larry Winters and Tony Stetson fought to a double-disqualification ... Magnificent Muraco, Eddie Gilbert, & The Dark Patriot beat Osbourne, Tommy Cairo, & Winter.

RESTLING CAPITALS

ALEXANDRIA, VA By Walter Whitfield



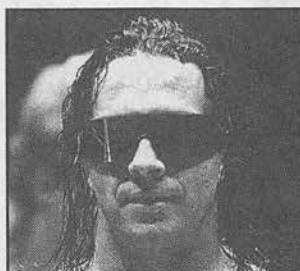
STING VS. BIG VAN VADER



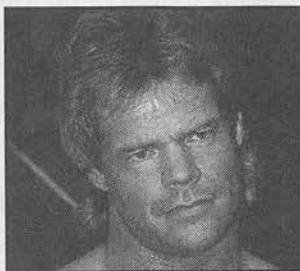
Pride, not a title, was on the line at Municipal Auditorium when Sting met Vader in a strap match; Vader had beaten Sting under these conditions at SuperBrawl III. Sting was dragged into the first two posts and seemed likely to lose. However, he rallied, whipped the strap around Vader's right shoulder and left calf, and took control. The stunned Vader couldn't retaliate, and appeared glassy-eyed, as Sting moved him about the ring to the fans' delight. All in all, a definite confidence booster for Sting, who's had little success against the much larger Vader.

OTHER BOUTS: NWA champion Barry Windham defeated Rick Steamboat ... Dustin Rhodes beat Paul Orndorff ... Rick Rude defeated Kensuke Sasaki ... Maxx Payne defeated Steven Dane by submission ... Arn Anderson beat Erik Watts following a DDT ... Davey Boy Smith defeated The Barbarian ... Kent & Keith Cole defeated The Wrecking Crew.

LOS ANGELES, CA By Nancy Hayes



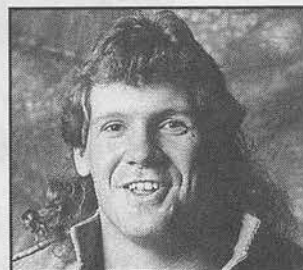
BRET HART VS. LEX LUGER



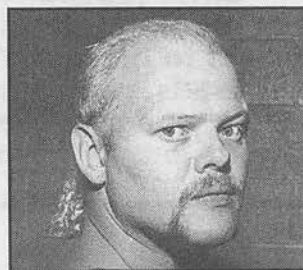
Fans at the L.A. Sports Arena were enjoying a dynamic match between these two WWF contenders, but leave it to Razor Ramon to spoil a good thing. Hart and Luger were going toe-to-toe for several minutes, with Luger's bearhugs and power moves the equal of Hart's technical skills. Who would win? We'll never find out, because Ramon jumped into the ring—ostensibly on Luger's behalf—and Hart was declared a winner by disqualification. Seconds later, Luger battled Ramon, chasing him back to the dressing room. After what had happened, can you blame the "Narcissist"?

OTHER BOUTS: It was not a good night for Ramon—he had earlier been pinned by Tatanka ... Rick & Scott Steiner posted a disqualification win over World tag team champions Money Inc. ... Yokozuna pinned Jim Duggan ... Virgil pinned Steve Lombardi ... Bob Backlund pinned Damian Dimento ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Kamala.

JOHNSON CITY, TN By Bob Blackwell

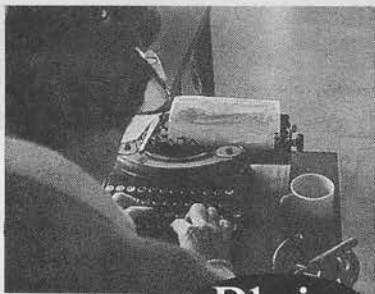


TRACEY SMOTHERS VS. TONY ANTHONY



Confusion reigned at Freedom Hall in a "coward waves the flag" match for Smothers' Smoky Mountain heavyweight title. Smothers' second, Tim Horner, knocked down the "Dirty White Boy's" second, Don Wright (brother Ron "was undergoing medical treatment by respected New York doctors"), and hoisted Don's flag to wave surrender. However, the referee was unaware Wright was down and awarded the win to Anthony. The fans were furious, and officials had no choice but to hold up the title—a decision later upheld by Commissioner Bob Armstrong—to the dismay of both Smothers and the Yankee turncoat.

OTHER BOUTS: Brian Lee beat Kevin Sullivan in a "Singapore spike" match ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express took the tag team title from The Heavenly Bodies in a loser-leaves-SMW match. Stan Lane has to leave after being pinned by Robert Gibson ... Horner & Brian Lee defeated Jimmy Golden & Dutch Mantel ... Killer Kyle beat Billy Blaze. □



Matt Brock's **Plain** *Speaking*

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

ATLANTA, GA

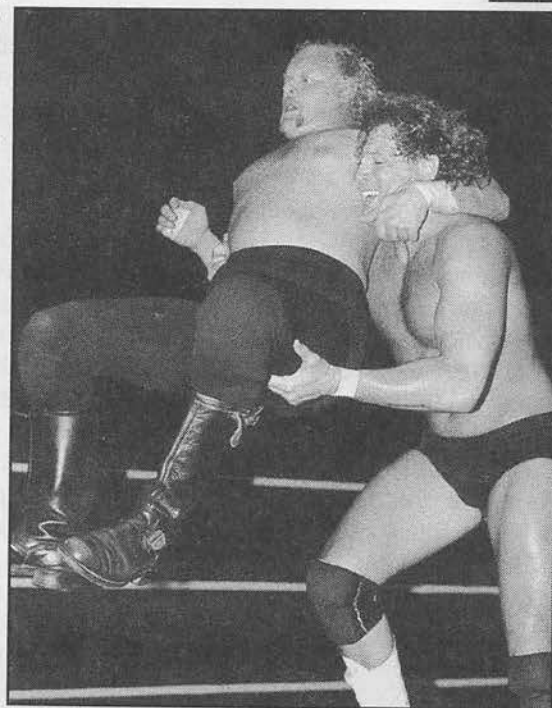
If Dory Funk Jr. wrestled Nick Bockwinkel 20 years ago, you would've seen trumpets blasting and lines backed up halfway around Atlanta. It's too bad things don't happen until they're too late, and don't let anybody tell me that Funk vs. Bockwinkel at Slamboree '93 turned out anything like it might have in the 1970s. Only the intensity was the same. Bockwinkel and Funk were great wrestlers, but the thing that set them apart was their competitive instinct. These men came to play, no matter who their opponent was. That's what happened at Slamboree. There were no titles on the line, only pride, and Funk and Bockwinkel wrestled like the match was the biggest of their lives. "It might have been the *last* one of our lives," Bockwinkel joked after the 15-minute time-limit draw. Don't bet on it. Slamboree '93 will become Slamboree '94 because it should, and because any fan or writer who cares about wrestling will make sure it happens again. Other federations have attempted old-timer tributes, but nobody's done it right until WCW. Give these people credit. Wrestling's past is just as important as its present and future, and

events like Slamboree remind fans who might not know any better that wrestling has a past to be proud of. When you put Funk, Bockwinkel, Verne Gagne, Gene Kiniski, Lou Thesz, and Bob Geigel together in the same room, that's darn obvious. This was a night to remember, and remember.

Every once in a while, a new federation pops up with the title Best Federation To Watch If You're Not Watching A Major Federation. Now it's Smoky Mountain Wrestling, a strictly regional independent federation that never seems to have a shortage of action or controversy. The SMW heavyweight title was held up here when Tracey Smothers, the champion, and "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony wrestled in a coward-waves-the-flag match. Nobody waved the flag, but the referee thought someone did and awarded the match to Anthony. Then the fans

JOHNSON CITY, TN

The sizzling Smoky Mountain feud between "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony and Tracey Smothers is proof to reporter Matt Brock that independent action is worth watching.



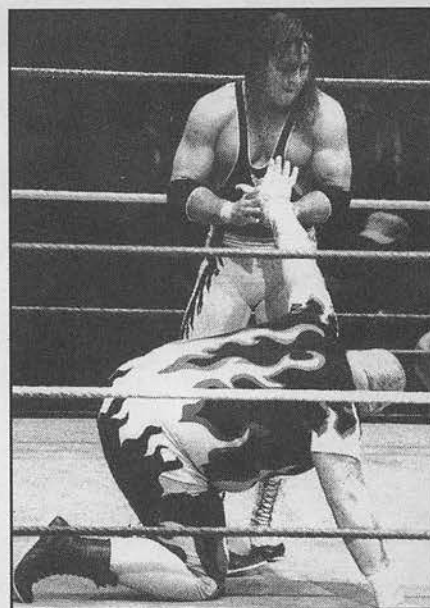
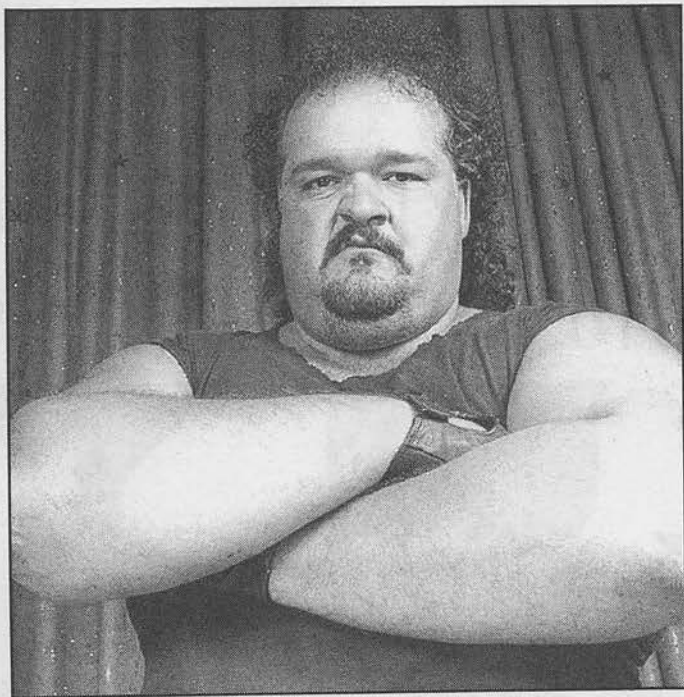
and then-Commissioner Bob Armstrong intervened, and some semblance of order was restored. Usually, the action in independent federations is either very good or very bad. There's a domino effect that takes over once one wrestler or one feud gets hot. The entire federation is livened, and before long, every feud is important. That's what's happening here. Kevin Sullivan ran Nightstalker out of town and now the Stalker is wrestling in the WWF as Adam Bomb. Jim Cornette tried to dominate SMW, but quickly learned that SMW didn't want to be dominated. Since most of you can't get down here for a match or find it on your TV sets, I'll make it a point to keep you up-to-date on what's going on here.

Just to prove a point about independent federations running hot and cold, here's IWA, a relatively new federation that's run its shows in the Northeast. The IWA is off to a slow start. Its stars include The Assassin, Ripper, Dr. Johnny

WIND GAP, PA

Wildside, and "Maniac" Jimmy Deo, which is certainly a dangerous lineup but nothing that's going to make anybody drop everything they're doing, buy a plane ticket, and get to the nearest IWA card as fast as possible. Okay, so I did. Don't get me wrong. There's a lot of potential here and things are heating up a little bit. And you're never going to find me criticizing an independent, because wrestling needs more of them. Heck, there was a time when almost everything was an independent. All we had was an alliance of promoters, but they were basically free to sign whomever they pleased. Anyway, long live the independents. They bring you to the roots of wrestling. Tonight's card was at the Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company, which

Independent wrestlers like the IWA's "Maniac" Jimmy Deo often wrestle in strange venues. Matt Brock took in an IWA card at a fire company.

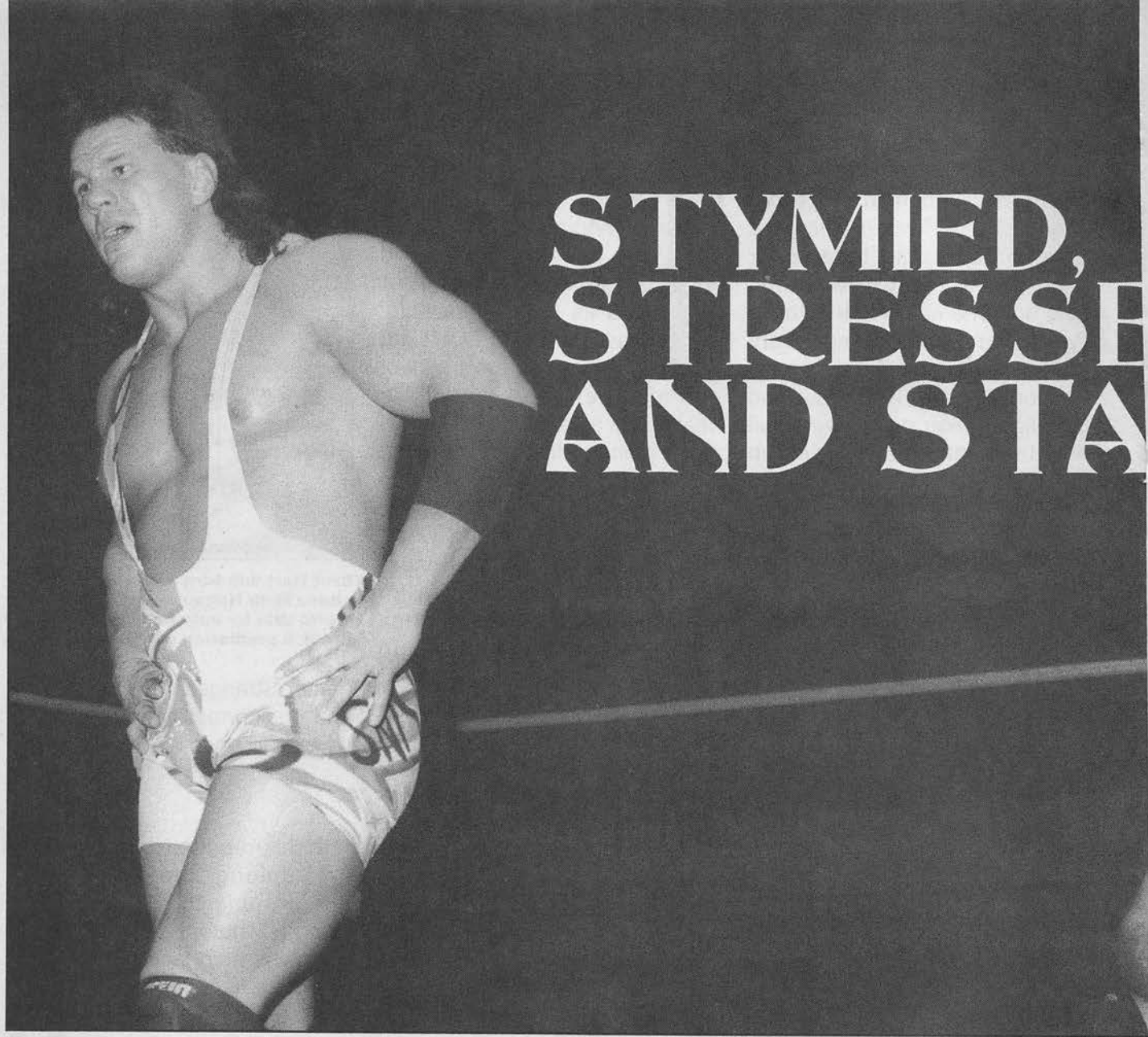


Bret Hart will turn rulebreaker and chase Hulk Hogan and the WWF World title by autumn if Matt Brock's prediction comes true.

game. Strange. While I may eat and drink wrestling, I'm not sure I'd want to sleep it.

This reporter is going to be among the dissenters. People think Bret Hart's going nowhere. I think he's going somewhere. In fact, I'm detecting a slight attitude change in the "Hitman," and it wouldn't surprise me in the least if he suddenly turned rulebreaker and went after Hulk Hogan. Hart's not stupid, and he realizes his only shot at the title is to change his ways. He did it before and he can do it again. I'm not sure Stu Hart would like the idea, but the younger Hart's long past the point where he has to listen to his father. Sure, that might sound insensitive, but nobody ever came to Matt Brock for a back rub. Hart vs. Hogan will be a feud by the fall. It's not a guarantee, just a prediction. □

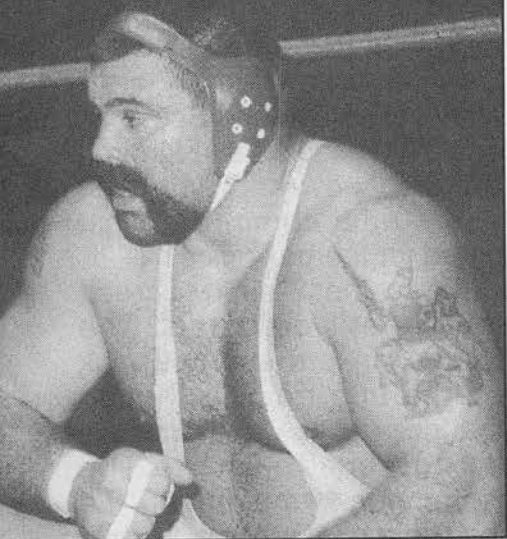
LOS ANGELES, CA



STYMIED,
STRESSED
AND STAY

THE STEINERS RU

D, LLED



Rick and Scott Steiner have neared the peak of the mountain, but they can't get over the top. Money Inc. is saving its WWF World tag team title through dubious methods, and the Steiners can only keep on trying

By V.J. Paterno

THE DECADE IS young, but the biggest news story of the first 30 months was written on December 14. That's when Rick and Scott Steiner made their WWF debut and defeated a pair of preliminary wrestlers who didn't stand a chance.

The immediate reaction was that better wrestlers also wouldn't stand a chance against the Steiners. The former three-time WCW World tag team champions had arrived in the WWF on a mission and with a reputation as the greatest tag team in the world.

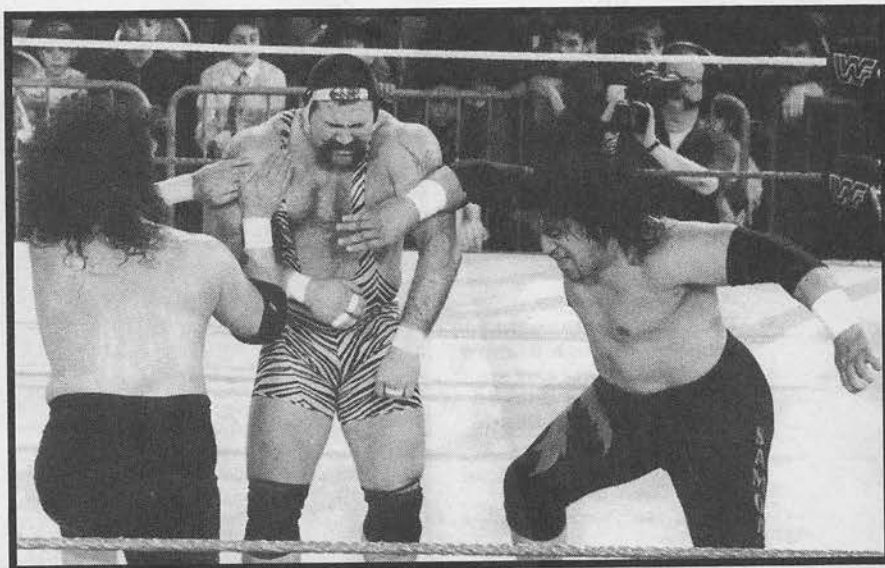
You might recall that similar superlatives were used to describe another team that stormed the WWF on a similar mission. Several years ago, The Road Warriors came to the WWF as The Legion of Doom, but although their immediate impact was great, they took some time before winning their one and only WWF World tag team title.

Several months after their arrival, the Steiners are as good as advertised. Unfortunately for the Steiners, their upward progress has been stalled over the past few months. They are going nowhere fast. Although nobody doubts their superiority over the champions, Irwin R. Schyster and Ted DiBiase, the Steiners have been

MUST GET OUT OF THEIR

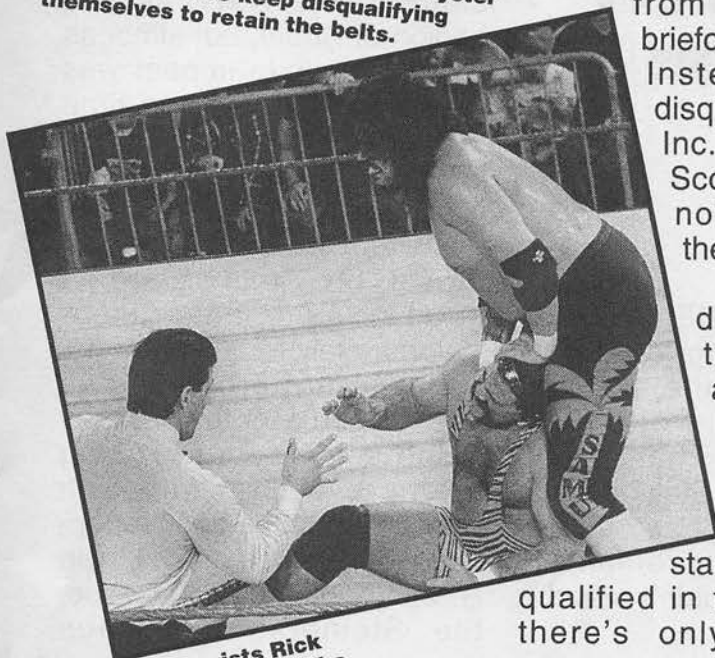
T

Rick Steiner gets double-teamed by The Headshrinkers. In most matches, The Steiners have proven they're more worthy title contenders than their Samoan adversaries.





Scott Steiner rescues his brother by smashing Samu. Steiner teamwork will mean nothing against WWF tag team champs Money Inc. if Irwin R. Schyster and Ted DiBiase keep disqualifying themselves to retain the belts.



Samu twists Rick Steiner's neck. The Headshrinkers and Steiners clashed again at WrestleMania after the WWF snubbed Rick and Scott and gave Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake the shot at Money Inc.'s title.

Rick Steiner appears too stunned to duck Samu's dropkick. Many say Money Inc. has ducked the Steiners' challenge through deliberate disqualifications and by using their infamous briefcase.

unable to translate dominance into tag team glory.

What's up? A metal briefcase, for one. The brothers would have won the belts long ago if a loaded briefcase wasn't acceptable wrestling gear.

It's not? Well, if it's not, why hasn't the WWF banned Schyster from bringing that briefcase to the ring? Instead of merely disqualifying Money Inc. for using it on Scott or Rick, why not strip them of the belts?

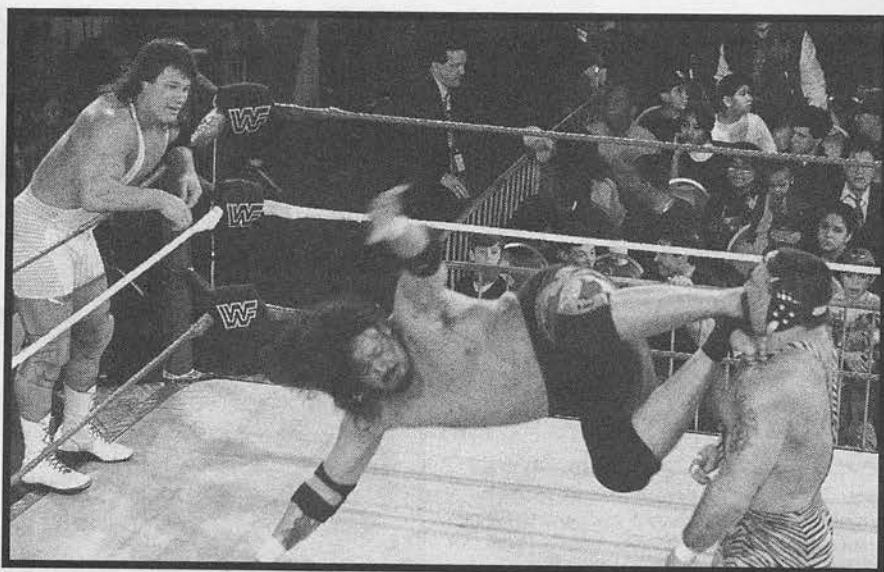
Since the WWF doesn't plan on taking action, and since Money Inc. insists on keeping its belts by constantly getting disqualified in title defenses, there's only one option

remaining for the Steiners: They must dig their own way out of their own rut.

They're not going to get any help from the WWF. That was apparent before WrestleMania IX, when the newly formed team of Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake received the title shot at Money Inc. The Steiners should have been outraged, but they quietly accepted a meaningless match against The Headshrinkers.

Hogan and Beefcake didn't deserve the title shot. It was clearly a promotional stunt on the WWF's part, encouraged by a feud that flared between Beefcake and Jimmy Hart against DiBiase and Schyster. The WWF could have ignored the sideshow and opted for sport and competition. It opted for the box office.

It's to the Steiners' credit that they defeated The Headshrinkers and got back on the title track, although that comeback was temporarily derailed when The Headshrinkers avenged the loss on a card in Philadelphia. Many teams would have



dived into a losing streak after such a snub. Not the Steiners. They kept on wrestling just as they had before WrestleMania.

They finally got the title matches they so desired. Money Inc. willingly signed on the dotted line. Then they turned their backs and ran.

There are ways to stop Money Inc. Rick and Scott must ambush Money Inc. from the opening bell and somehow get their hands on Schyster's briefcase. Then they must set up situations that make it impossible for Ted and Irwin to get disqualified.

It might sound impossible, but the Steiners have overcome similar situations. They won the WCW belts from The Freebirds and Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton, two other teams that didn't exactly play fair.

In fact, it was often the case that the Steiners scored their title wins just when things looked bleakest. Then the champions let their guards down and the brothers pounced on the situation.

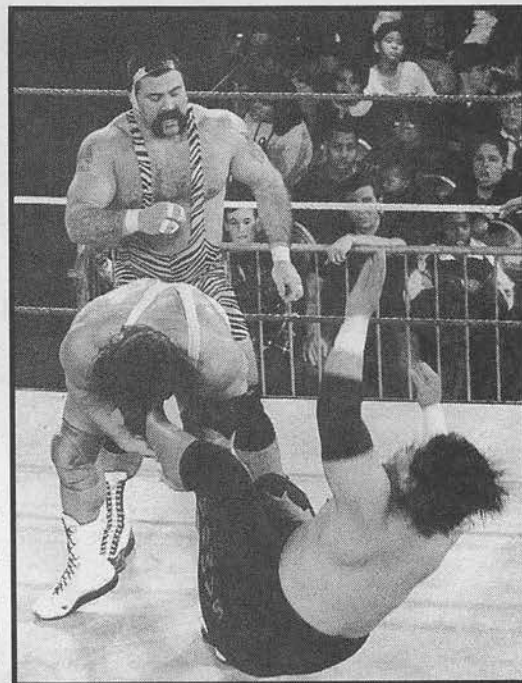
The Steiners cannot stop chasing Money Inc. until they catch them. It's their only reason for being in the WWF. At this point, the Steiners are overcome by frustration, and maybe they're even questioning themselves, but Money Inc. cannot keep running forever.

There was never any timetable for success. It's unfortunate DiBiase and Schyster, two very talented wrestlers, refuse to wrestle the Steiners like men. Too bad. The glory will be the

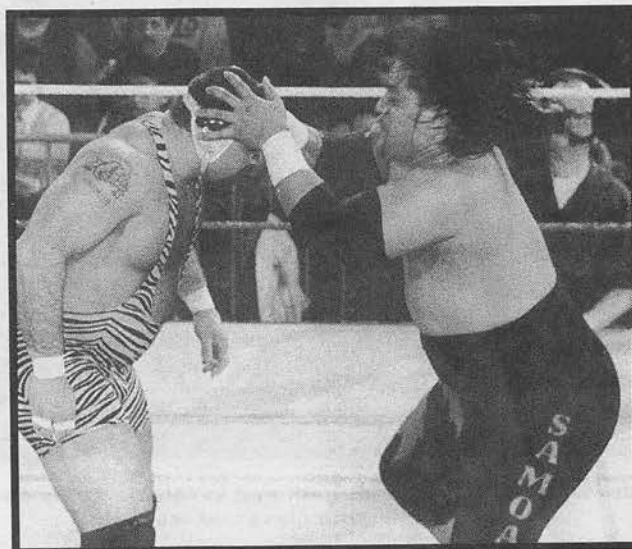
same if it takes Rick and Scott a year to win the belts. As frustrated as they might be, the Steiners must realize that time is on their side.

"The WWF isn't going to take away their title shots," said Capt. Lou Albano, who in an article in this month's edition of *The Wrestler* criticized Money Inc. for tainting the World title. "Everybody knows the Steiners are worthy and Money Inc. is unworthy. At some point, DiBiase and IRS are going to slip. I just hope it happens soon."

So do the Steiners. Their wait must feel like forever. Tomorrow never comes. But Rick and Scott will have their day in the WWF. When it comes, let's see Money Inc. catch them. □



The Steiners need to take matters into their own hands, like Scott does here with Fatu, and see to it that Money Inc. wrestles them in fair matches.



Rick Steiner feels the brunt of a Fatu headbutt. Despite their frustrations, the Steiners still have time to regroup and win the title, just as they did in WCW.

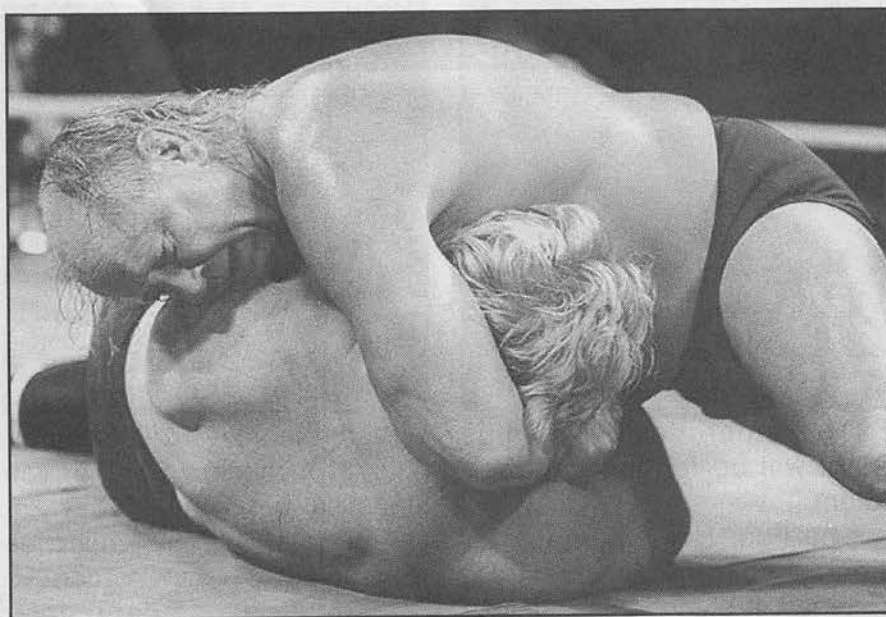
SLAMB

WCW LOOKS BACK
WITH FONDNESS...
AND FORWARD
WITH FEAR



Most old feuds forgotten, the legends gathered in Atlanta at Slamboree '93 for a reunion filled with class and respect.

DRREE'93



While WCW was honoring wrestling's rich past, the stars of the present were setting up an exciting future. It's a future wrought with fear and destruction, as WCW heads into a season of uncertainty

The 15-minute time-limit draw between legends Dory Funk Jr. and Nick Bockwinkel was only a precursor to the real action—when current WCW stars took center stage.

By Matt Brock

LOU THESZ HAD a tear in his eye and a catch in his voice. Tough men don't cry too often, but this was a special man on a special night, and it had been a long time in coming. In fact, Slamboree '93 was a special weekend.

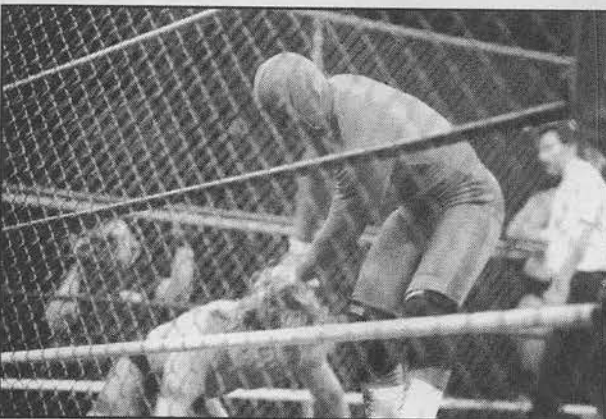
There are thousands of wrestling fans and nearly a hundred wrestlers who will never

forget May 22 and 23, 1993. Sure, old-timers weekends have been conducted before, but never have they been pulled off with such respect, class, and excitement as at Slamboree.

The weekend was especially exciting for Thesz, who was inducted into what WCW proclaimed to be a Hall of Fame on Sunday at The Omni in Atlanta. He was joined by Verne Gagne, Eddie Graham, and Mr.

Wrestling II—who received the loudest ovation of all—in ceremonies conducted by legendary broadcaster Gordon Solie.

"It was just a wonderful thing to see old friends and even some enemies, and then to have this marvelous honor was just the perfect capper," Thesz said. "I loved my wrestling career, but retirement has been great because so many people haven't forgotten."



Dos Hombre Rick Steamboat battles Hollywood Blond Brian Pillman in a cage match in which the Blonds' belts were at stake (left). Sid Vicious (below left) and Paul Roma (below right) made the night's biggest news, however. Vicious returned to WCW under Col. Robert Parker's tutelage and power-bombed his way to a quick win over Van Hammer; Roma became The Four Horsemen's newest stablemate.

World champion Ric Flair worked the microphone on his "A Flair For The Gold" segment, Arn Anderson and Ole Anderson appeared to celebrate the reunion. They were

On this nostalgic weekend, WCW took some time out to look back with fondness. But

Slamboree '93 was no old folks' day at the retirement village. After a weekend of dining, autograph-signing, handshaking, and then three legends matches, the young kids took over on the second half of the pay-per-view telecast.

finally joined by the newest Horseman, Paul Roma, who seems willing and able to continue this infamous clique's legacy of success and terror.

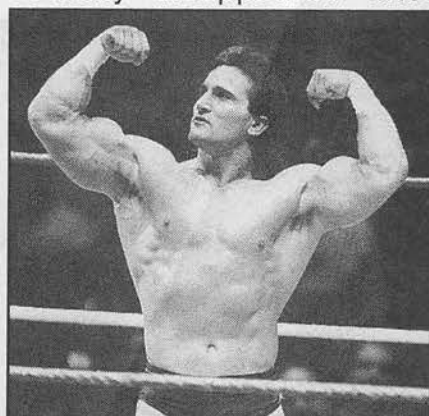
There was more. Sid Vicious, the former Horseman who left WCW for the WWF and then virtually disappeared after

SLAMBOREE



The repercussions of this night will be felt long into the future.

The Four Horsemen, left for dead back in March 1991, returned in stunning fashion. As seven-time former NWA/WCW

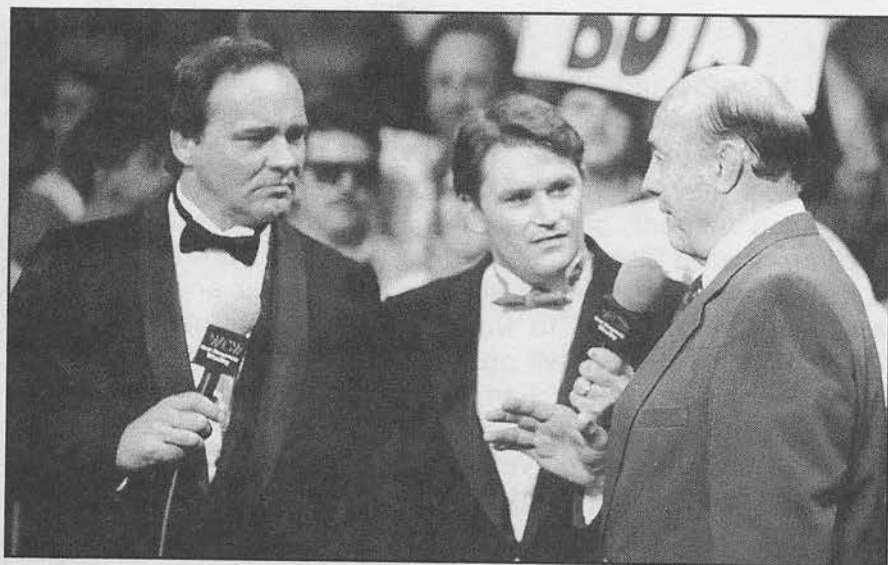


WrestleMania VIII, was dominant at Slamboree '93. (For you statistical buffs: As of May 25, two of Sid's last three matches were on pay-per-view cards.)

Vicious, accompanied by manager Col. Robert Parker, needed only 35 seconds to pin up-and-comer Van Hammer. More importantly, he used his devastating power bomb, thus becoming WCW's second perpetrator of this potentially crippling move.

The other, Big Van Vader, almost got to use his power bomb on Davey Boy Smith.

Verne Gagne talks with commentators Larry Zbyszko (left) and Tony Schiavone. On a night that that spotlighted both young and old, Gagne was one of four legends inducted into what WCW called a "Hall Of Fame."





A legend himself, broadcaster Gordon Solie stands between dapperly-dressed old-timers Dory Funk Jr. (left) and Gene Kiniski at the legends dinner. Funk defeated Kiniski for the NWA title in 1969.

Fortunately, Sting came to the rescue, thus forging a new and exciting alliance between Smith and Sting.

One final note: the NWA title isn't in very good hands. Barry Windham tried to walk away from his match against Arn Anderson, but Anderson dragged him back into the ring. Finally, a bloody and exhausted Windham belted Anderson with his title belt, and covered him for a controversial pin.

"The one thing about wrestling is that time waits for no one," Mr. Wrestling II said. "Sure, it was a great night to look back, but these men have no time to pause and reflect. They're looking straight ahead and I don't blame them. Heck, at one point I wanted to run into the ring and join the fun."

Several old-timers did just that. In a legends six-man tag team match, Dick Murdoch, Magnificent Muraco, and Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka battled to a no-contest with Wahoo McDaniel, Blackjack Mulligan, and Jim Brunzell. The rulebreakers had

Crafty legends Wahoo McDaniel (left) and Ole Anderson break bread together in Atlanta. Anderson participated in the active wrestlers' portion of Slamboree when Ric Flair hailed him as one of The Four Horsemen.

an advantage; Snuka and Muraco are still very active in ECW, and Snuka makes the rounds of other regional federations.

Thunderbolt Patterson and Brad Armstrong teamed to beat Ivan Koloff and Baron Von Raschke. And in the best legends match of all, Dory Funk Jr. and Nick Bockwinkel battled to a 15-minute time-limit draw.

"It was fun," Bockwinkel said. "But let me tell you, I'm not sure I'd want to mess with Vicious or Vader."

WCW seems to be on the verge of a rather violent chapter in its history. Vader clearly will do anything to save his belt and Vicious is intent on proving that he isn't an underachiever, although that's exactly the tag

that has been attached to him the past three years. The Vicious-Vader alliance is highly dangerous, especially to each other.

The Horsemen, despite their current status as fan favorites, are in the most volatile state. There are questions concerning the Horsemen: will Tully Blanchard eventually return, forcing either the dumping of Roma or an unprecedented expansion?

Flair plans on going after the World title, but his first order of business is bringing down WCW World tag team champions Steve Austin and Brian Pillman. The rulebreaking potential here is enormous. Pillman and Austin know how to save their belts, but no team is capable of greater and more imaginative chicanery than the Horsemen. Just ask Sting and Lex Luger.

Perhaps it's best to view Slamboree '93 as a look at the past, present, and future, or as an ending point for one era and a starting point for another. Because wrestling has no seasons, there are no set beginnings and endings. We have entered WCW's season of fear. And that's all we know for sure. □



RAZOR RAMON

CAN HE
CUT IT AS
A FAN
FAVORITE?



By Chris Bernucca

IT'S THAT TIME of year again. Flowerbeds have gone from bare to blooming. Open windows are filled by air conditioners. Jeans and sweaters are replaced by shorts and T-shirts. And Razor Ramon is considering a personality transplant—again.

Ramon, who used to be Scott Hall, who used to be The Diamond Studd changes his persona just slightly less frequently than the seasons. This time, however, he's exploring new ground. Ramon is apparently making the difficult transition from rulebreaker to fan favorite.

What other explanation could there be for his attacks on Lex Luger, which have assisted former WWF World champion Bret Hart? What other reason could there be for his newfound success as a mat technician? What other answer is there to explain his his diminishing dastardly demeanor?

"Razor Ramon as a fan favorite?" laughed Davey Boy Smith, a former WWF Intercontinental champion now competing in WCW. "I'll believe it when I see it."

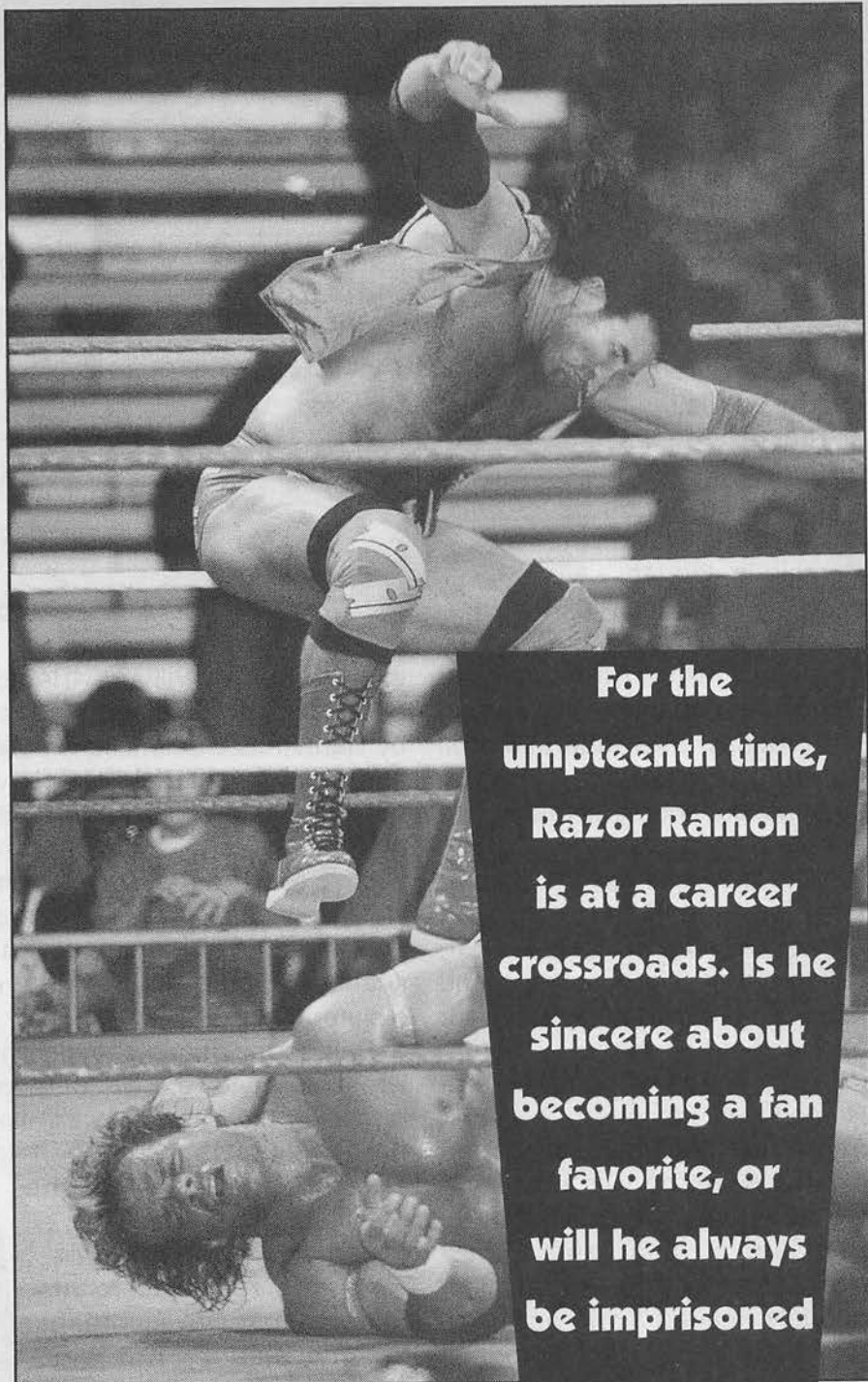
"That poor guy has wrestled under so many names and personalities, he probably has to check his driver's license to see who he really is," said Nick Bockwinkel, who remembers Ramon as Scott Hall in the AWA years ago. "I kind of feel sorry for him."

Nobody was feeling sorry for Ramon when he came into the WWF one year ago. They were too busy feeling sorry for his opponents. Ramon came in talking trash and backed it up

Razor Ramon's recent interference in Bret Hart-Lex Luger bouts—and his subsequent attacks on Luger—have many people wondering if he is once again about to change his personality and become a fan favorite.

with a brazen brawling style that had fan favorites running for cover.

He affiliated himself with the erstwhile "Trilogy Of Terror," Ric Flair, Bobby Heenan, and Curt Hennig, his former championship tag team partner in the



For the umpteenth time, Razor Ramon is at a career crossroads. Is he sincere about becoming a fan favorite, or will he always be imprisoned

by his image as the "Bad Guy"?

AWA. He helped Flair win the World title with a series of brutal attacks on Randy Savage and eventually angled himself for a title shot after Hart had dethroned Flair.

That match—the biggest of Ramon's career—came at the Royal Rumble in January.

Hart, using his technical wizardry, easily defeated the embarrassed Ramon and shattered his aura in the process. In a federation full of other wrestlers, Ramon became just another wrestler.

Hennig had become a fan favorite and Flair left the federation, leaving Ramon to go it alone. He did not fare well, falling out of title contention and into middle-card status, and wondering about his future.

When it was announced that Ramon would face Bob Backlund at WrestleMania IX, most observers felt he was only serving as another steppingstone in Backlund's remarkable comeback. The slumping Ramon desperately needed a win against a top-notch wrestler. He surprised the observers and Backlund, pinning the former WWF World champion in under four minutes.

The only thing more startling than the outcome was the manner in which it was attained. Ramon eschewed his brawling tactics and beat Backlund at his own game. He scored the pin with an inside cradle, and didn't have to grab Backlund's tights to do so.

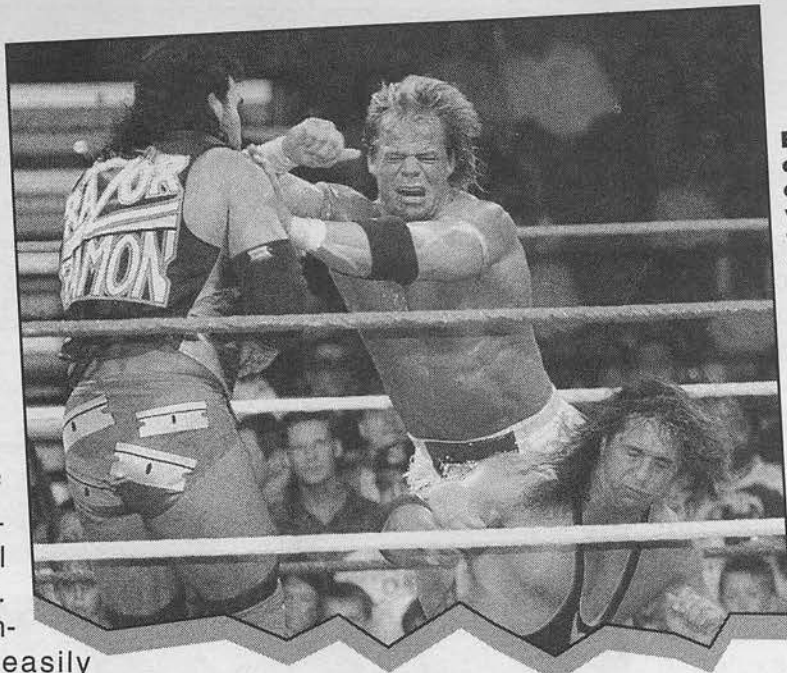
"I think there were a lot of factors involved," offered WWF

expert Thomas Pilliard. "Ramon had seen the success enjoyed by Hennig as a scientific wrestler and a fan favorite. He may have felt that his brawling had taken him as far as it would, and he wasn't satisfied with where he was. He was also in a big slump, and wrestlers will attempt drastic changes in order to break out of a slump."

Ramon may have changed his wrestling style, but his persona remained the same. He still had the same swagger when he entered the ring at the Manhattan Center on May 17 for a match against The Kid.

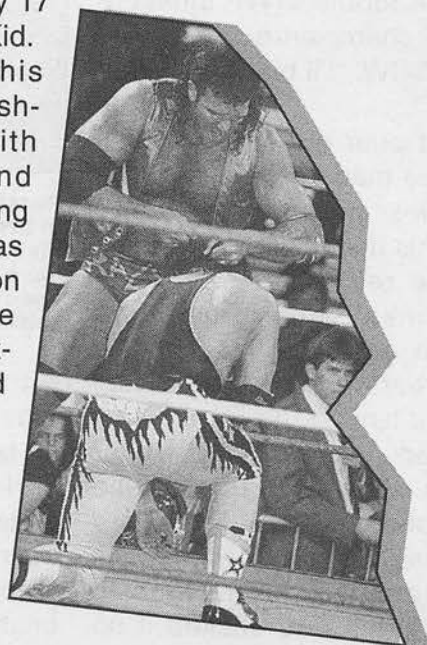
Ramon reverted to his rulebreaking ways, thrashing the smaller Kid with punches and kicks and tossing him around the ring as if he were a toy. He was the most surprised person in the building when The Kid came off the turnbuckles with a backflip and pinned him.

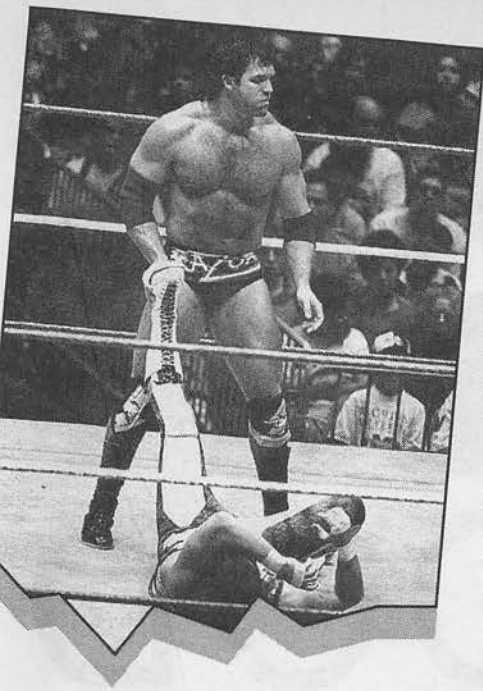
"It's funny how Ramon has been involved in what I think are the two biggest upsets of the year in the WWF," said Pilliard. "But that's what



Bret Hart ducks to the canvas as Luger smashes an interfering Ramon with a forearm. Some wrestlers only laugh at the latest change of heart by Ramon. He's had so many identities and personalities, it's difficult to keep track at this point.

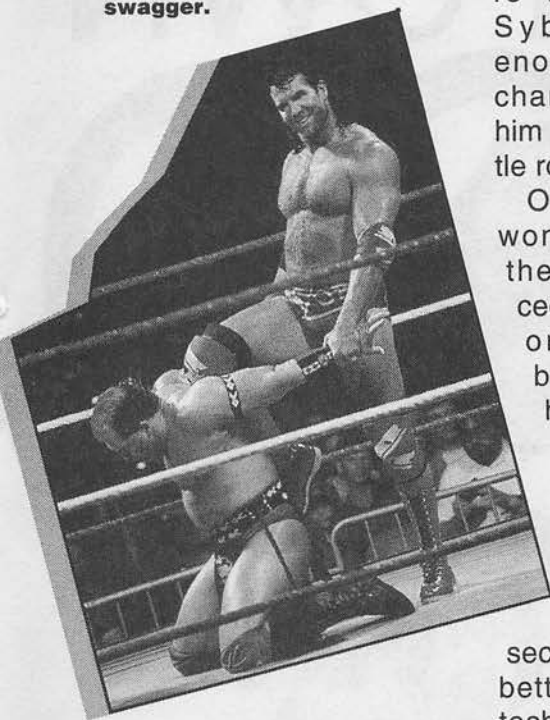
An arrogant Ramon grabs former WWF World champion Hart by the hair. Ramon had one title shot against Hart at the Royal Rumble, but he failed miserably. Becoming a fan favorite could be a desperate attempt by Ramon to catapult himself back into contention for the gold.





Ramon grabs the leg of a fallen Randy Savage. His feud with the "Macho Man" probably marked the time when Ramon was most despised by WWF fans.

Ramon smiles as he jams his knee into Tatanka's back. Despite his recent attacks on rulebreaker Luger, Ramon has continued to wrestle fan favorites with his usual swagger.



happens when you are unsure of your ring style."

The loss to Kid may have opened Ramon's eyes to the possibility of yet another personality makeover. He had blinded Backlund with science and lost to Kid by brawling. The results of those two bouts may have given him an answer about his future direction.

Ramon has made his presence known at several matches between Hart and Luger. He began with attacks on the "Hitman," enabling Luger to break free of Hart's "sharpshooter" leglock. But recently, he has turned his terror toward Luger, battling him back to the locker room on a few occasions.

For someone who has undergone as many personality transplants as Ramon, it is hard to tell if he is sincere about the direction he seems to be choosing. Ramon is wrestling's Sybil; he has enough different characters within him to stage a battle royal by himself.

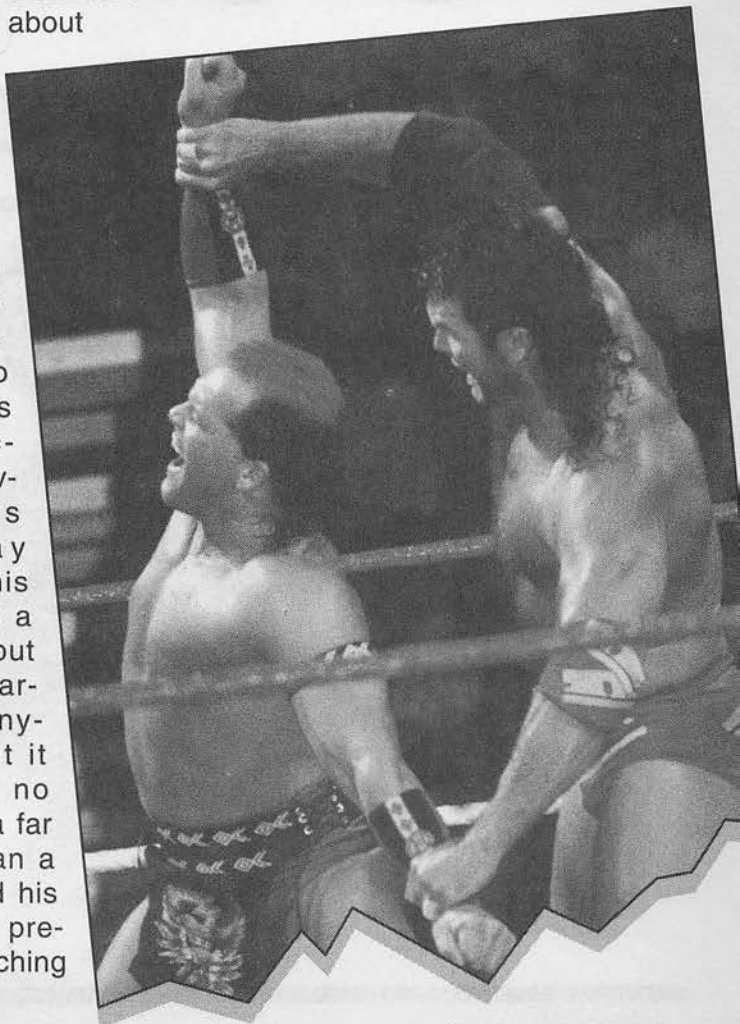
One also has to wonder if he has the skills to succeed as a fan favorite. Ramon's brawling may have limited his ascension as a rulebreaker, but it took him farther than anyone thought it would. It's no secret that he is a far better brawler than a technician. Should his lack of skill again prevent him from reaching

the top, would he work to make himself better, or simply revert to what he does best?

These are questions that only Ramon can answer, and *he* may not even know. Right now, he is between seasons in a career that has blown hot and cold since the day it began. It won't be long before he starts feeling the heat from fellow rulebreakers and fickle fans. Let's see if he can stand the long, hot summer. If not, he may be headed for a fall.

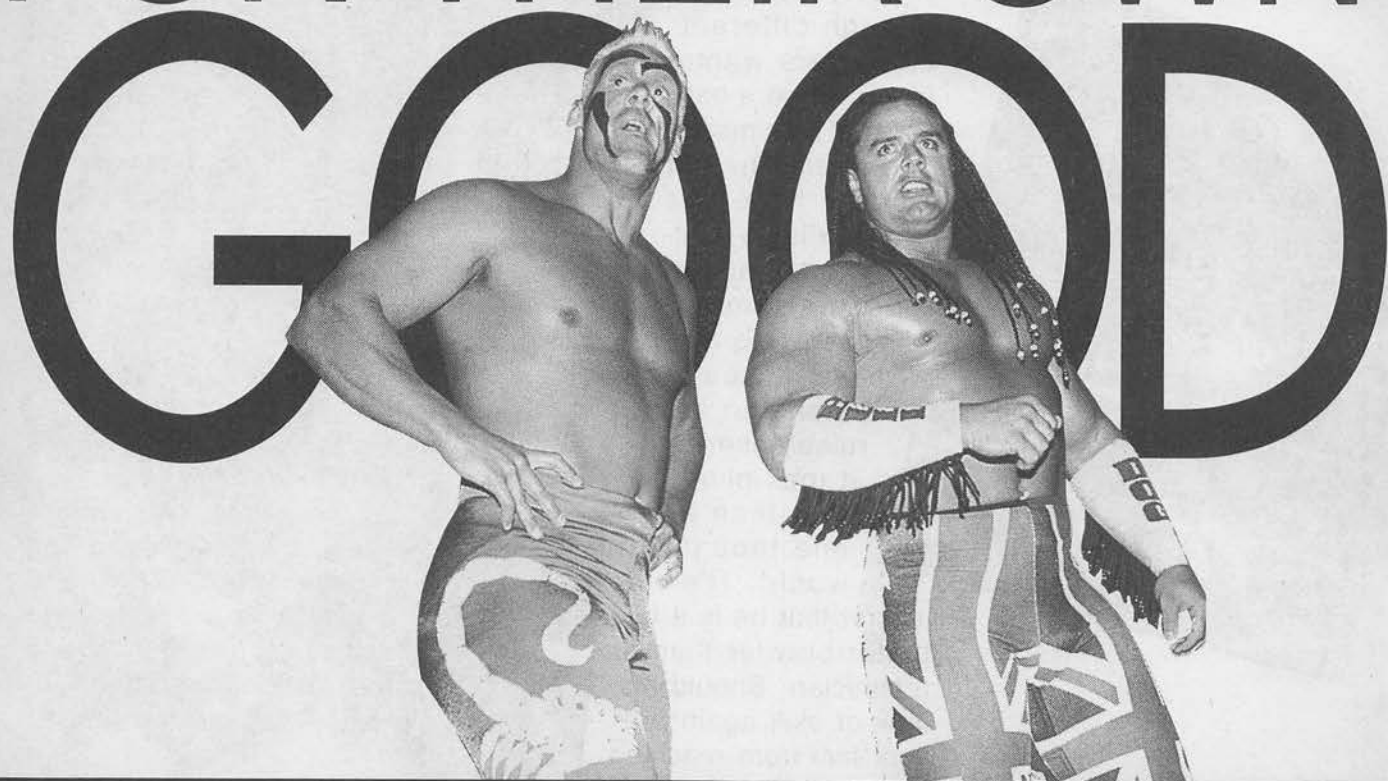
Or perhaps another persona. □

Tatanka feels the pain as Ramon twists his arms. Razor's brawling style has brought him moderate success during his career, but he defeated technical wizard Bob Backlund at WrestleMania using scientific skills. That victory alone may have him pondering a style change.



**STING AND
DAVEY BOY
TOO GOOD
TOGETHER**

FOR THEIR OWN



Sting and Davey Boy make a great tag team, but are their aspirations as a pair getting in the way of achieving their goals as individuals? The alliance is spectacular, but it must end now!

By Dave Lenker

DAVEY BOY SMITH had just about given up on tag team wrestling. His experience with The British Bulldogs was marvelous but ended in chaos, and he'd arrived at the same realization reached by many others: All tag teams eventually fall apart.

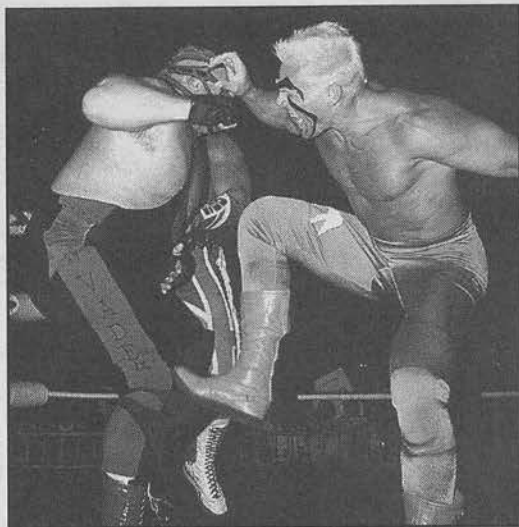
It wasn't an easy realization. At first, Davey Boy thought he might have done something wrong to cause the Bulldogs' breakup. Dynamite Kid's attitude toward him did nothing to allay those fears.

Little by little, however, Smith examined other teams and saw how they, too, fell by the wayside.

"We had a great run," Davey Boy said. "But it had to end. Nothing's forever."

Call it maturity. Things usually have a way of working out for the best, and that's certainly been the case with Davey Boy. He went on to win the WWF

Intercontinental title in August 1992, scoring the sweetest victory of his career before friends and family at London's famed Wembley Stadium. He has developed into a superstar and has made himself right at home



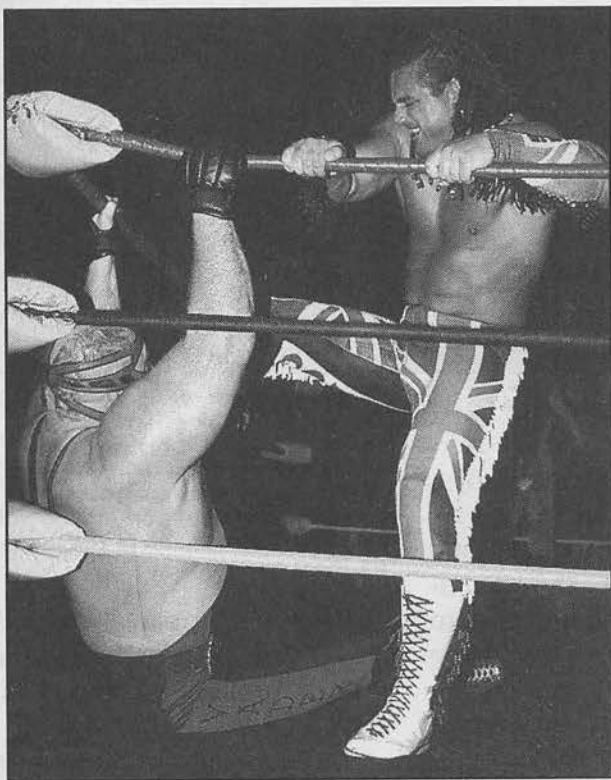
Sting and Vader have had many titanic singles wars. Both Sting and Davey Boy have the ability and experience to capture Vader's WCW World heavyweight title. Their newly-formed tag team will only hinder their chances of achieving that ultimate goal.

in WCW.

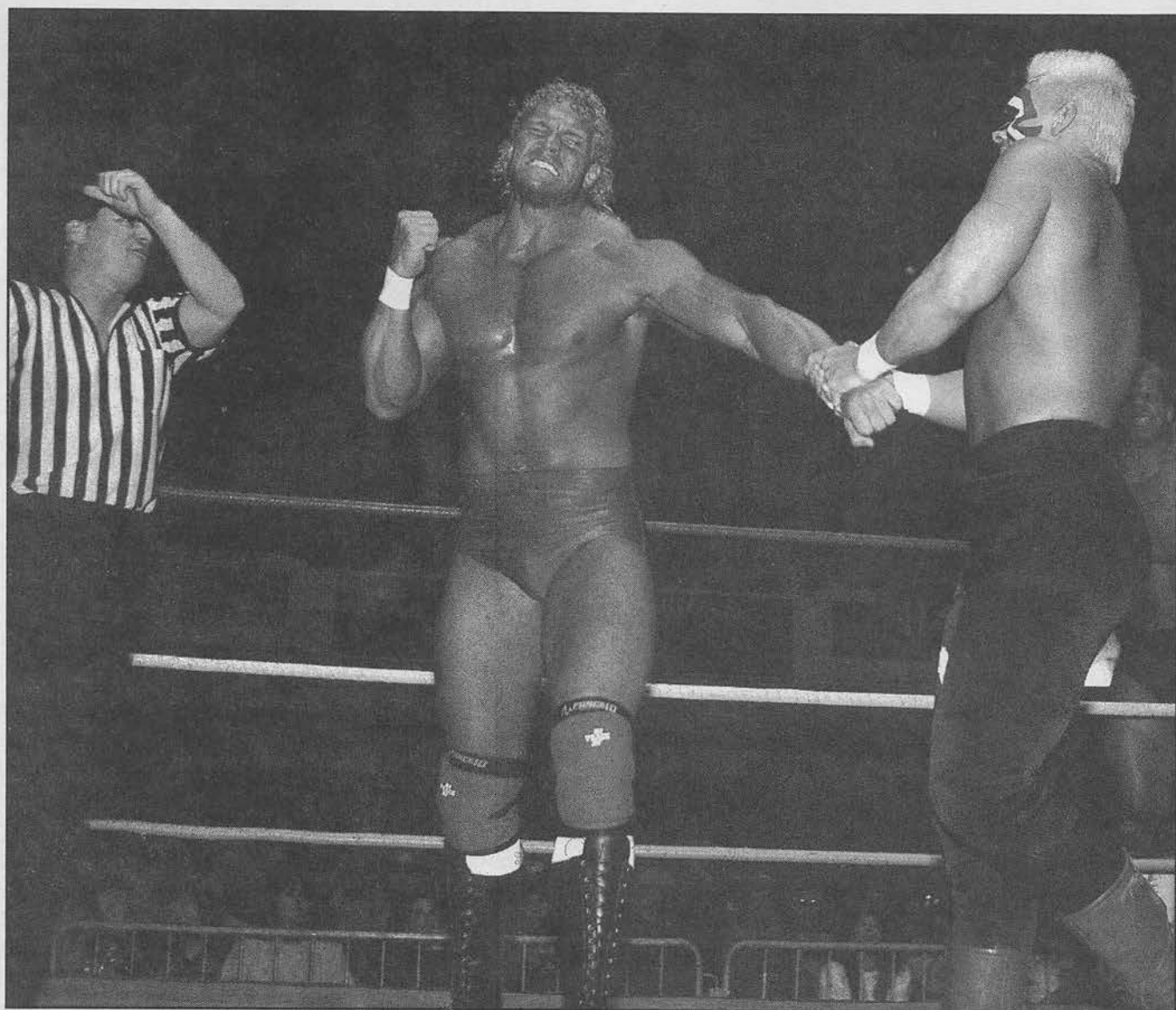
"I love being here," Smith said. "I really needed a change of scenery and WCW has worked out perfectly for me. You know, some federations ignore a wrestler's past, but they didn't do that here. They were aware of what I'd accomplished and they put me in big matches right away."

Sting, too, was aware of Davey Boy Smith's vast accomplishments. The first time he saw Smith wrestle in WCW, he confided to friends: "I wouldn't mind teaming with that guy. We'd complement each other perfectly."

By now, we know that this teaming of two fan favorites is as good as Sting knew it would be. The alliance was formed earlier this year, when Sting saved Davey Boy from a Big Van Vader power bomb, and grew during the weeks leading to their match against Vader and Sid Vicious at Slamboree '93. With precision teamwork and an innate knowledge of each



Davey Boy Smith kicks a fallen Big Van Vader in the corner during a tag team match. The Sting-Davey Boy alliance was officially forged at Slamboree '93 in Atlanta when Sting charged the ring to save the British Bulldog from a Vader power bomb.



other's strengths and weaknesses, Sting and Smith have forged a dream team.

But are they too good for their own good? As the duo develops, are they tossing aside their considerable potential as individuals? Or can the man and the team survive simultaneously?

"I know that's the question on everyone's mind, but I'm not worried about it," Sting said. "There are seven days in a week, 30 days in a month, and plenty of matches on plenty of cards. If I wanted, I could wrestle in tag teams 10 times a month and by myself 10 times. That's 20 times a month and it's a pret-

ty hectic schedule for any wrestler."

The logistics make it possible; logic makes it difficult. Maybe it's easy to wrestle by yourself and in tag teams when your aspirations are low, but it's much more difficult, if not impossible, when you're shooting for the top. It has been proven numerous times that a world heavyweight champion cannot waste too much time tag teaming without damaging his career.

Unfortunately, Sting doesn't realize the urgency of the situation. He hasn't had a steady partner in several years and is enjoying the camaraderie and

Sid Vicious gets ready to unleash a closed fist on Sting. The "Stinger" insists he can split his ring time evenly between tag team and singles bouts. History suggests that world heavyweight contenders suffer when they wrestle in too many tag team matches.

success of his relationship with Davey Boy. There's something to be said about being part of a team.

"There are things about being a team that you could never get from wrestling in singles matches," Davey Boy said. "There's that feeling of togetherness, that you're accomplishing something together, and when you win, there's somebody else who knows exactly how you feel."

Smith also hasn't had a steady partner in years, and must have been shocked to find that there was another wrestler who so perfectly complemented his style. It is a combination of speed and strength that every tag team looks for.

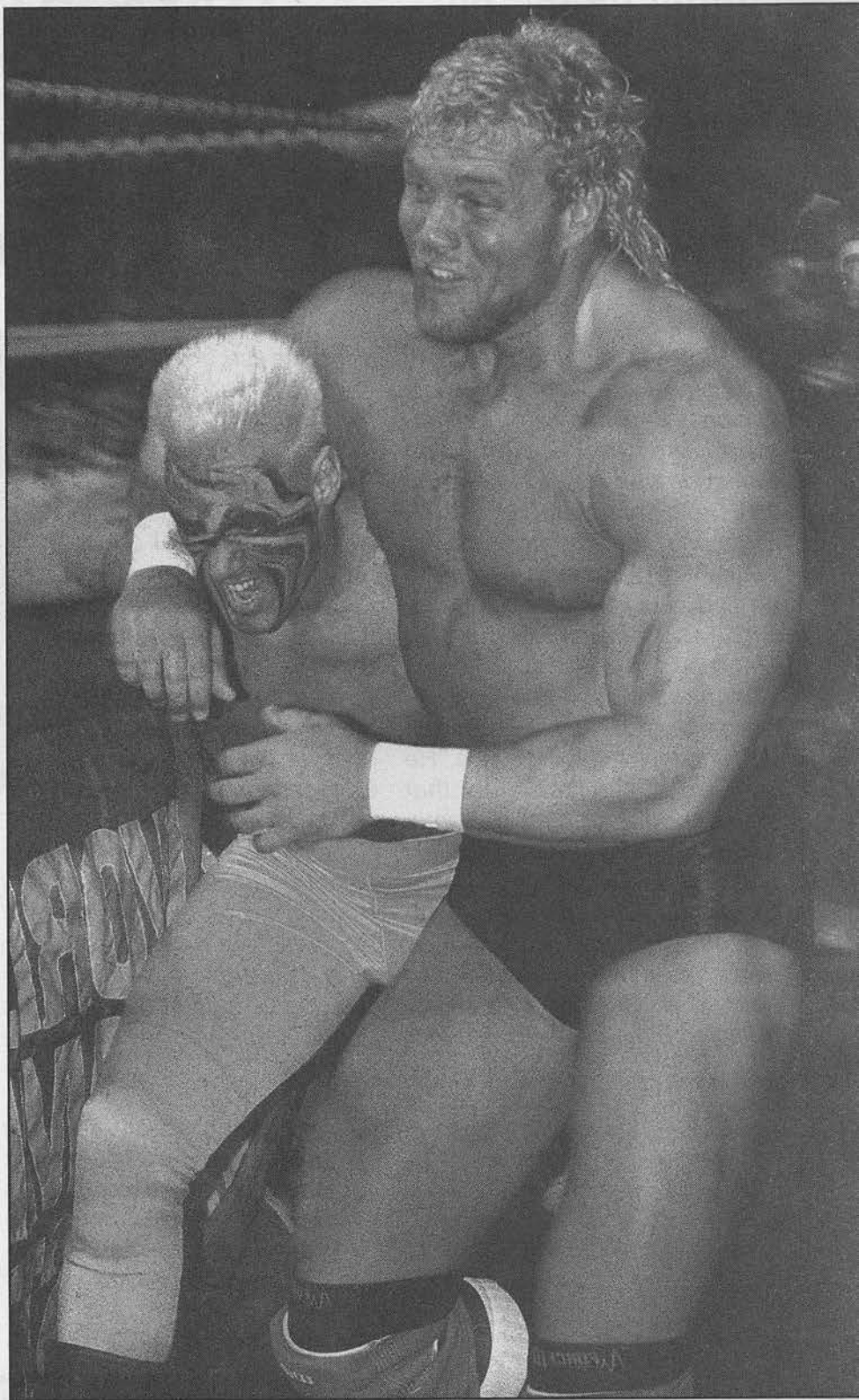
"I have no doubt that if we stuck with this, we'd be World tag team champions before the end of the year," Davey Boy said. "Now it's just a matter of deciding if that's what we want."

Several years ago, Smith thought about nothing but winning tag team titles. Times have changed. He got a taste of individual glory when he won the I-C belt and then got to wrestle Vader for the WCW World title at Slamboree '93. He has grown to love singles competition as much as he loved tag teams.

There's nothing wrong with either. But when two men are as talented as Sting and Davey Boy Smith, it seems a shame for them to concentrate on anything but major heavyweight titles. Just like there's never been a tennis player who would rather excel at doubles than singles, the ultimate goal of any wrestler should be individual belts.

Sting and Smith are at important points in their careers. They have peaked as athletes, and probably will never get better. Breaking up is hard to do, but they'd be helping themselves if they parted and moved forward separately.

Once before, Davey Boy gave up on tag team wrestling. It's time for him to cut the knot again. □



Vicious drags a helpless Sting outside the ring. Sting and Davey Boy are enjoying the camaraderie of their new alliance, but both would be better off chasing singles glory now that they are peaking as athletes.



RON SIMMONS

"VADER CAN'T DUCK ME FOREVER!"

IT IS SAID that the only thing tougher than becoming champion is becoming an ex-champion, and that is what Ron Simmons has had to endure in 1993. On December 28, 1992, Simmons' four-month reign as WCW World champion came to an end when he was pinned by Big Van Vader in Baltimore, Maryland.

Unlike most champions, Simmons didn't get a chance to immediately regain the title. He suffered a shoulder injury that sidelined him for over a month, and watched as Sting took his place as the most logical contender to Vader's title. The crazed Cactus Jack and WCW newcomer Davey Boy Smith have also received title shots, bumping Simmons' name further

down the list.

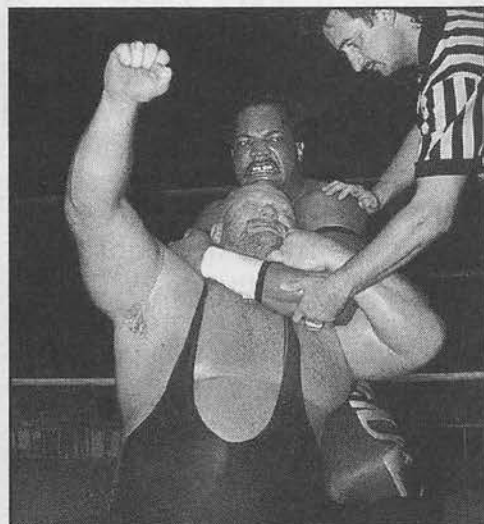
The former Florida State football All-American returned to action in late-February and has thrust himself back into the title picture. He defeated Paul Orndorff on April 21, a bout in which Orndorff's TV title was on the line for the first 10 minutes. Simmons won in 10:15, but proved that he was serious about regaining his title. He also lost to NWA champion Barry Windham by disqualification on April 27.

Simmons wouldn't mind wearing either one of those belts, but the one he really wants is held by Vader. He recently sat down with Senior Writer Chris Bernucca to discuss his title aspirations, among other subjects.

Q: Outside of TV tapings, you haven't been wrestling as much as you have in the past. Is that a conscious decision on your part, or do you want to wrestle more and just can't get the matches?

A: It's a little bit of both.

Ron Simmons matches strength with Big Van Vader (left) and tries to wear the WCW champion down (top right). Simmons claims he will defeat Vader and begin his second reign as WCW champ if only the promoters would sign the match.

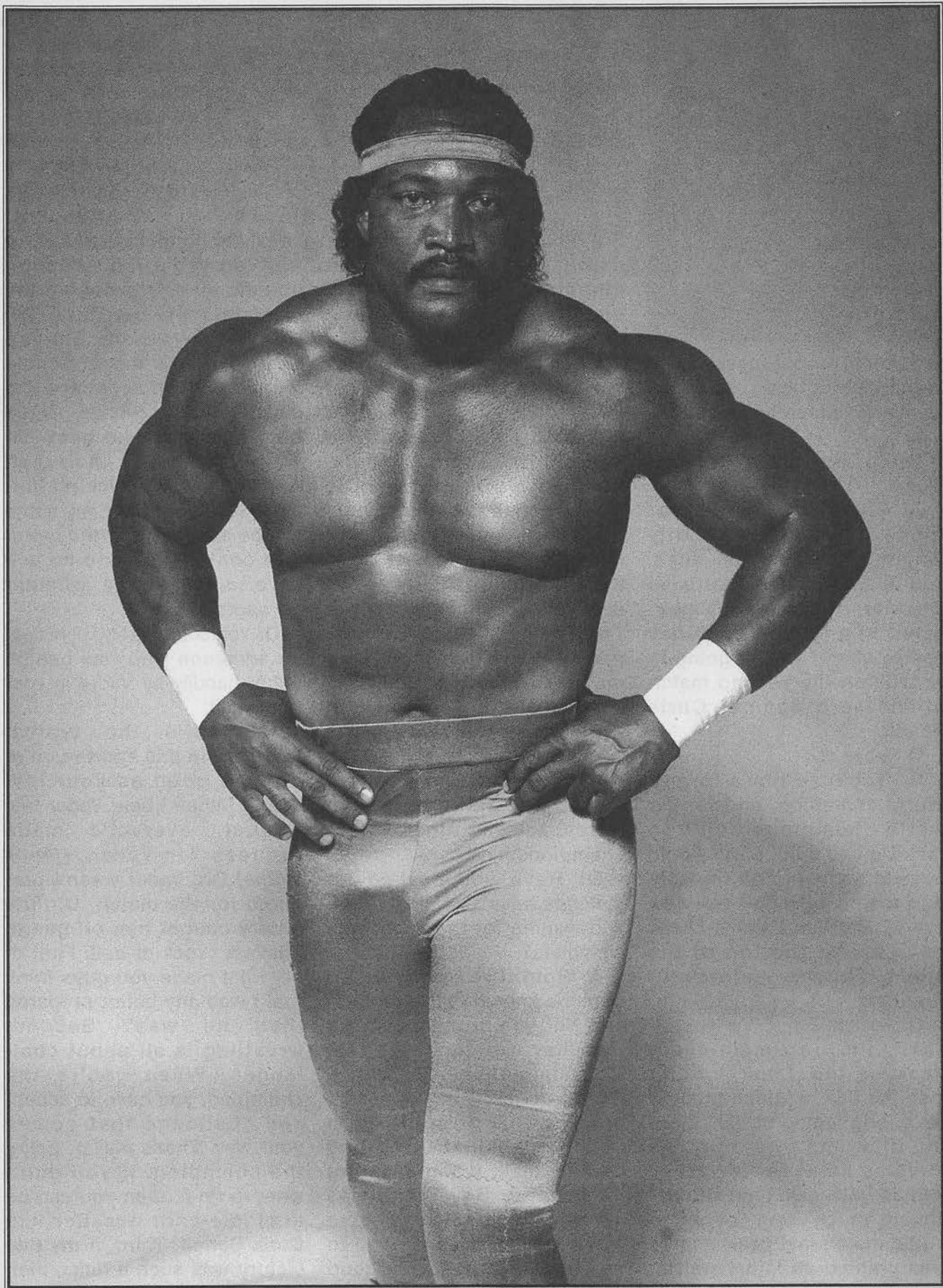


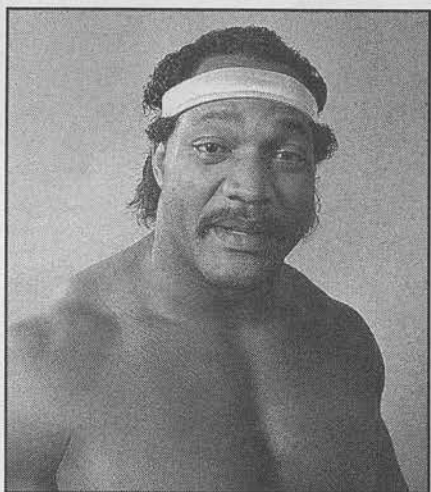
The TV tapings offer you exposure that the arena cards don't. If I wrestle on TV, millions of people see me. If I wrestle at four arenas in a week, thousands of people see me. Wrestling on TV is the easiest way to let the fans know that I'm still a factor in this federation.

Q: Did you feel like you had to let the fans know?

A: Not anymore, but I did. When I hurt my shoulder, I didn't wrestle for almost two months. At first, people would see me around Atlanta and ask, "When are you coming back?" But I was out for so long, people stopped asking me if I was coming back. I knew I had to do







“NO FORMER WCW CHAMPION HAS EVER BEEN DISSED AS BAD AS I HAVE.”

something to put myself back in the picture again, so I took as many TV matches as possible.

Q: But you didn't wrestle at Slamboree '93.

A: Right. The lineups for those cards are normally determined well in advance, and all the title matches were lined up. I really wasn't interested in anything else they had to offer. I wasn't going to wrestle on the second match of the card against Chris Benoit.

Q: Why not?

A: Because I'm a former World champion, and former world champions don't do that. Do you think Sting would wrestle someone on the second match of a pay-per-view event? Big Van Vader? These guys are at the top of the sport. They're main-event wrestlers.

Q: And you?

A: I'm a main-event wrestler, too. Look, I didn't lose the title to Vader, then go on a long losing streak. I lost the title, and I got hurt. As soon as I was healthy, they should have given me another shot at Vader. Sting got hurt in a title match last year, and he was granted an injury waiver.

But when I got hurt in a title match, WCW treated me like a stepchild. No former WCW champion has ever been dissed as bad as I have.

Q: Did it hurt to watch guys like Sting and Cactus Jack get title shots?

A: Well, I want to be careful about how I say this, Chris, because Sting and Cactus Jack are friends of mine, and I don't want them to think that I have something against them. If they're offered title shots, I don't expect them to say no. They ask for title matches, promoters offer them title matches, and deals get worked out. My beef is with the promoters, not the wrestlers. But, yeah, it hurt. It hurt knowing that I wasn't treated with the same amount of respect that other former champions have.

Q: Have you pushed for matches against Vader, or are you waiting for the okay from promoters?

A: Both. I've let my intentions be known to the promoters. Not one of them can say that they were unaware that Ron Simmons wants World title matches. But Vader has been booked solid with matches against Sting and Cactus Jack. When Jack got hurt, Davey Boy Smith was moved into his slot. I've got to play the waiting game, and to be honest, I'm not very good

at waiting. Patience may be a virtue, but it isn't one of my virtues.

Q: Do you think Big Van Vader is ducking you?

A: Of course!

Look, I'm not going to say that Big Van Vader isn't a tough opponent. He's probably the strongest wrestler in WCW. But you guys made Big Van Vader into this indestructible monster, when wrestlers like myself and Sting have beaten him. Vader can be beat. He knows that, and I know that. And Vader can't duck me forever. Sooner or later, my name will be at the top of the list of title contenders, and he will have to wrestle me, whether he wants to or not.

Q: You sound pretty confident for someone who was beaten rather handily by Vader in your last match.

A: That's the typical response in this sport—you're only as good as your last match. When I beat Vader last August, everyone made excuses for Vader. (*Mock whine*) Oh, Vader wasn't prepared for the match. Oh, the lottery caught him off-guard. That's a crock of bull. First of all, what made you guys think that I was any better prepared than he was? Second, wrestling is all about challenges. When you're the champion, you have to accept any challenge that comes your way. That's part of being the champion. If you don't want to do it, then you can be a middle-card wrestler like Chris Benoit. Third, if my title victory was such a fluke, then

how come I beat Vader in all of the rematches and held the belt for four months. The media and some of the fans tried to belittle my title reign.

Q: That's just the way things are. I can tell you that at our magazine, we were initially stunned by the outcome. But once you began defending the title, we thought you were legit.

A: I shouldn't direct my anger at you, because you guys have been pretty good to me. You even put me on the cover of your magazines a couple times, and that was appreciated. I just want to be treated with the same respect as other men who have won the WCW World title. Is that too much to ask?

Q: No, but let me ask the questions. Since we sat down, you have twice mentioned Chris Benoit with an obvious level of disdain. Why?

A: Because Chris Benoit is a fronter, that's why. He came into WCW with a reputation as a good guy and an excellent wrestler, and he has done nothing but disprove that reputation. Last month in New York, I was scheduled to wrestle him, and I was looking forward to taking on an opponent who would test me physically, without any of the stupid stuff. Before the match even started, he was hitting me with a chair. My shoulder was just getting back to the point where I could go out there and wrestle and not worry about re-injuring it, and he's blasting me on the very same shoulder with a chair. Things like that start making you think about your career, and you can't be getting into the ring with stuff like that

weighing on your mind. I have no respect for Chris Benoit. Like I said, he's a fronter.

Q: Is that the reason you have cut back your appearances at arenas?

A: One of the reasons. That stuff is more likely to happen on the road. Guys are tired from all the travel, they're on edge because they've been away from their families, they're living out of suitcases. That stuff can get to you. The good wrestler—the pro—can block it out and still perform up to the best of his abilities.

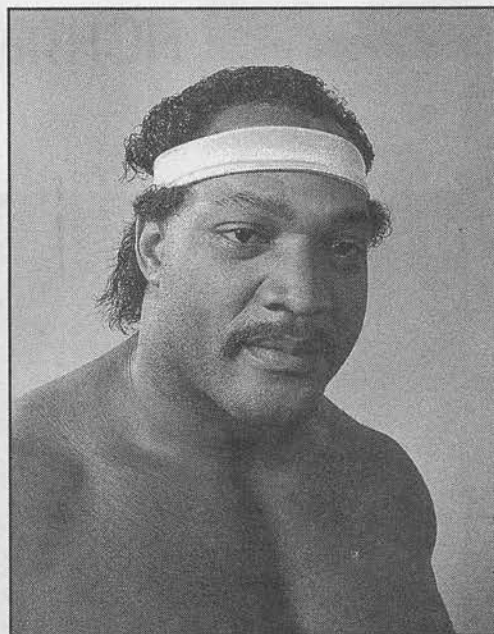
Q: Has it gotten to you?

A: I'm not gonna lie to you. I don't miss it. It's a lot easier to relax and focus when you wake up in your own bed in your own house. It's a lot easier to maintain a workout schedule, too. But there's other reasons.

Q: Like what?

A: Well, since I became champion, I've been in demand for public appearances, and I just can't say no to those. It feels good to go to a hospital and visit children. You leave with a smile on your face, because you know you brightened that kid's day. And I like attending the public relations functions that WCW organizes. When I became champion, I realized that there was more to it than defending the belt. You become the most prominent individual in the federation, and there are responsibilities that come with that. Autograph shows, hospital

visits, public outings, the whole bit. You have to give something back. When you come right down to it, the fans pay your salary. This is why I have very little respect for Vader. He wins half his matches by disqualification and gives nothing back to the fans. I'm not surprised that



**“ I'M GONNA BE
WORLD CHAMPION
AGAIN. I
GUARANTEE IT.”**

they try to boo him out of the building.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

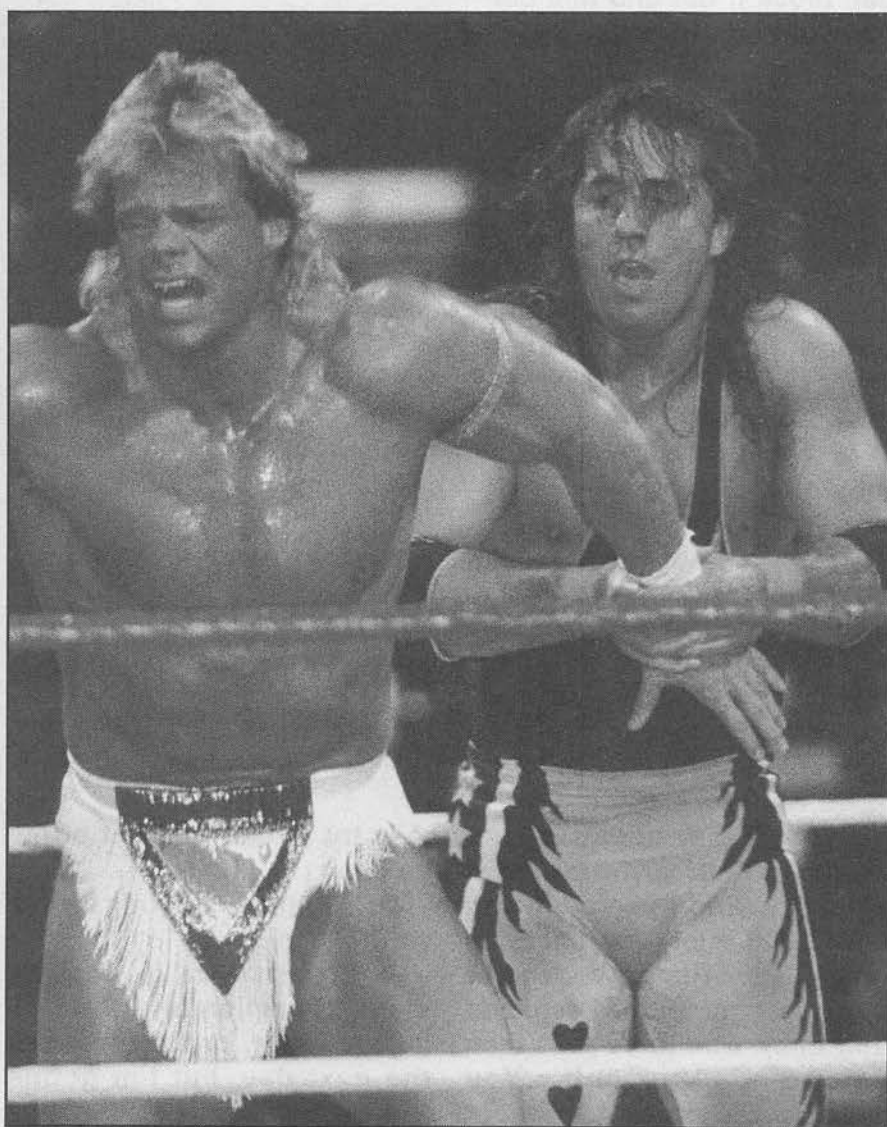
A: Yeah. I'm gonna be World champion again. It may not be today, or tomorrow, or the next day, but I'm gonna win the belt again. I guarantee it. And now that I've guaranteed it, maybe you guys won't be so surprised when it happens. □

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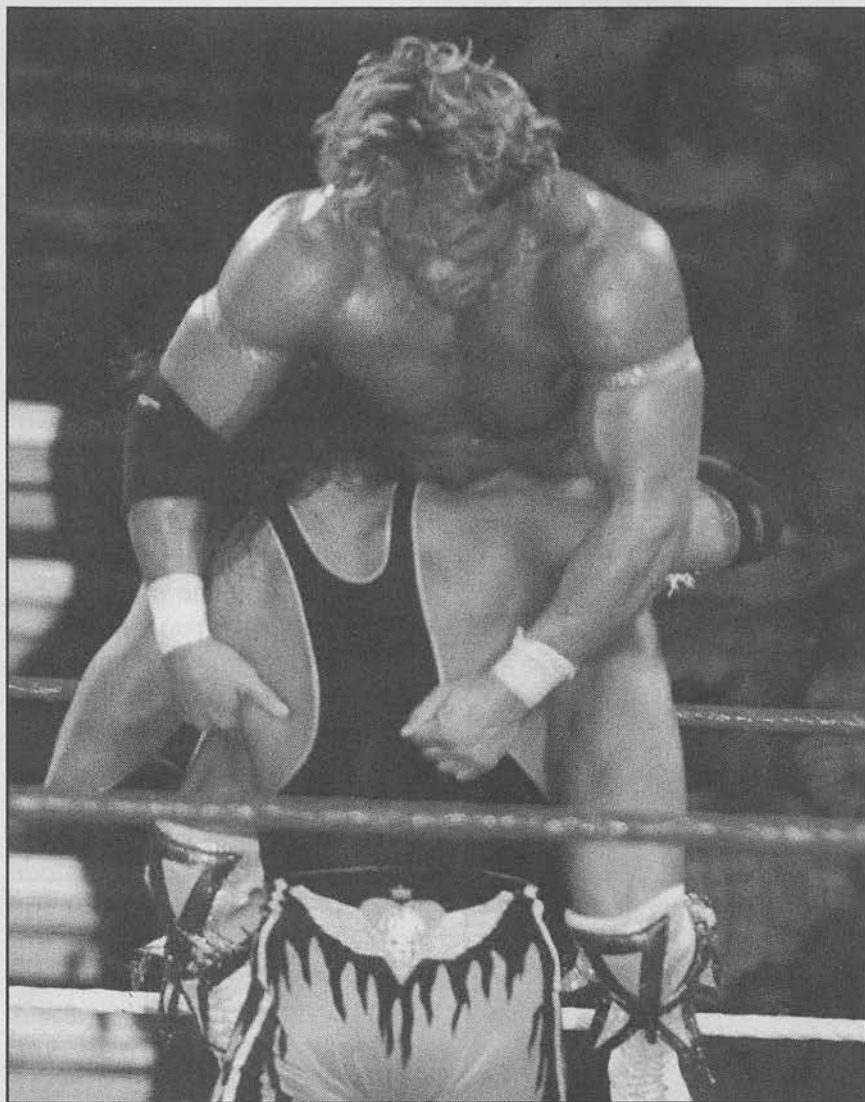
Hart

FIGHTING HIS WAY BACK

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An obviously irate "Narcissist" Lex Luger winces from the pain caused by a Bret Hart wristlock. The "Hitman" is the one who should be upset. Since losing the WWF World title to Yokozuna at WrestleMania, Hart's record has been nearly perfect, yet he's received nary a title shot.



Hart traps Luger in a bearhug. So far the "Hitman" has been patient in his quest to return to the top of the WWF, but some insiders suggest that he needs to complain more if he is to get the title bouts he deserves.

By Dave Rosenbaum

BRET HART MUST feel like a college basketball team on probation. No matter how much he wins and how good he looks doing it, he's not going to the big dance.

Of course, unlike Syracuse University or the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, the "Hitman" never did anything wrong. His biggest crime was losing the WWF World title at WrestleMania IX when Mr. Fuji tossed salt at his eyes.

His second-biggest crime was stepping aside and allowing Hulk Hogan to wrestle Yokozuna in an impromptu rematch moments after the originally scheduled WrestleMania main event.

Hart has made few mistakes since then. He just keeps winning virtually all his matches, even though his opponents include some of the best the WWF can offer. The problem is that he's not getting anywhere. Hart is wrestling in a vacuum, in which his best performances

Winning is a matter of pride for Bret Hart. That's all it is. The "Hitman" hasn't been much of a hit since losing the WWF World title. No matter how well he wrestles, he'll never get a shot at Hulk Hogan

have no effect on his surroundings.

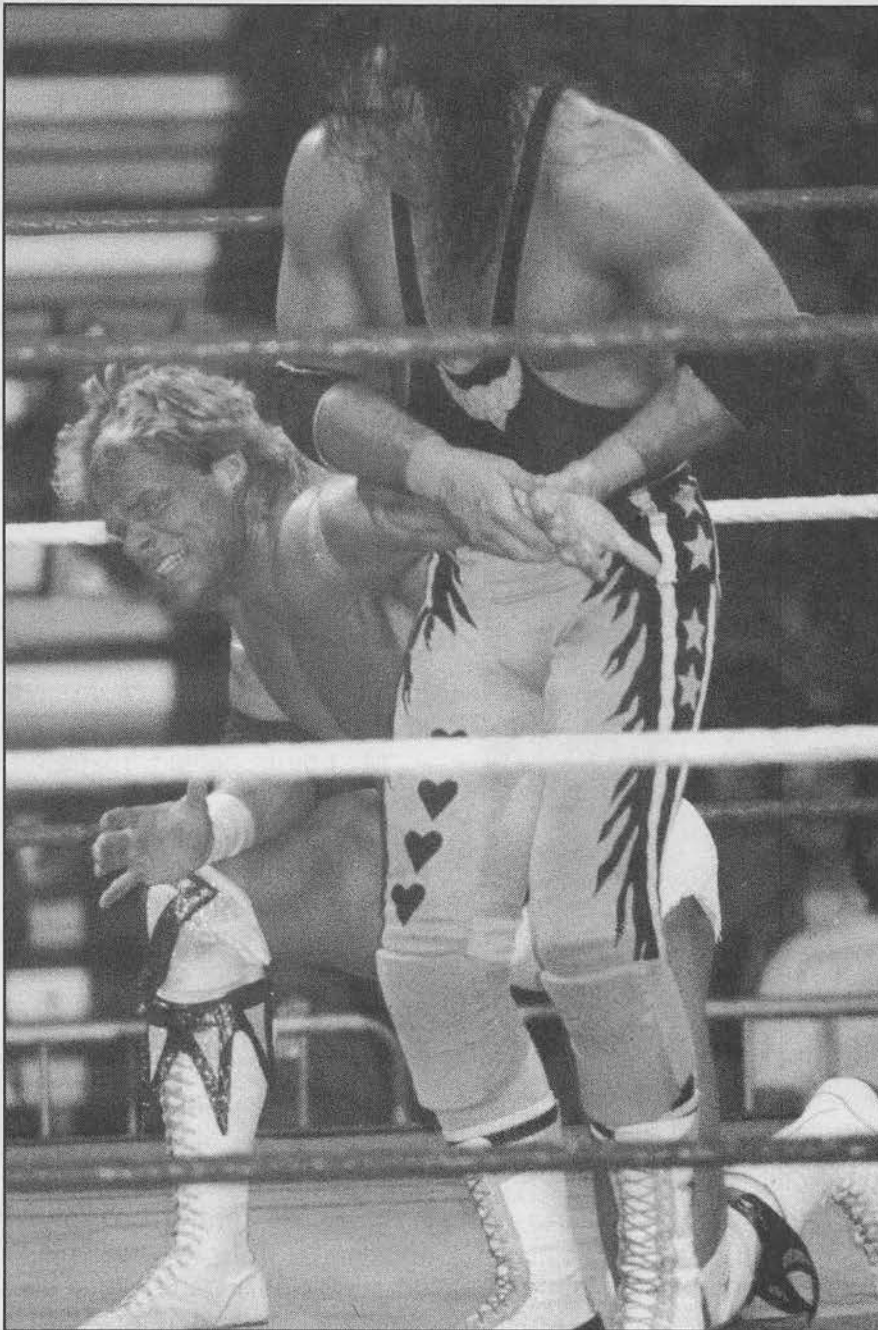
"My boy is getting frustrated, I'll tell you that," said Stu Hart, Bret's father and occasional trainer. "He feels a little left out because he's not getting treated like an ex-champion, especially an ex-champion who shouldn't have lost the title in the first place. I just tell him to be patient, that his time will come."

Patience is Hart's only option, besides changing his ways and once again becoming a rule-breaker. No matter how much winning he does, Hart will never get a shot at Hogan's World title. Now that Marty Jannetty is the Intercontinental champion, he'll never get a shot at that belt, either.

Even though he's held both!

"Sometimes things don't make sense in wrestling," Stu Hart said. "You just have to go with the flow and wait for your chance. Then when you get your chance, you have to grab it."

After losing the World title, Hart embarked on a series of matches against Bam Bam Bigelow. Despite his huge size



Luger feels more arm agony courtesy of the scientifically skilled Hart. The "Hitman" was once a rule-breaker in the WWF, and he could return to that style if he tires of waiting for the federation to treat him properly.

disadvantage, Hart scored numerous impressive pinfall victories and dominated the feud.

Papa Shango, a champion in the USWA, was no match for a former champion in the WWF. Hart showed off his sharpshooter in several victories by submis-

sion and also won by pinfall in many cities.

Hart's conquests of Lex Luger were marred by Razor Ramon's interference, but the "Narcissist" managed to pin the ex-champ in Hershey, Pennsylvania. That loss to Luger is the lone blip on an otherwise perfect post-WrestleMania run.

Perhaps the ultimate insult to Hart came when the seedings were announced for

the "King Of The Ring" tournament, and some questioned why he was named the number-one seed. Imagine that! It should have been automatic. In fact, Hart should have been outraged that Yokozuna was picked to wrestle Hogan in the main event.

That he didn't say a word is testament to Hart's sportsmanship and intense pride. He never wanted anything for free. He has always been willing to work for his goals. He didn't even complain when Yokozuna beat him for the title under highly controversial circumstances. The "Hitman" graciously stepped aside that Las Vegas afternoon and let the "Hulkster" steal the show.

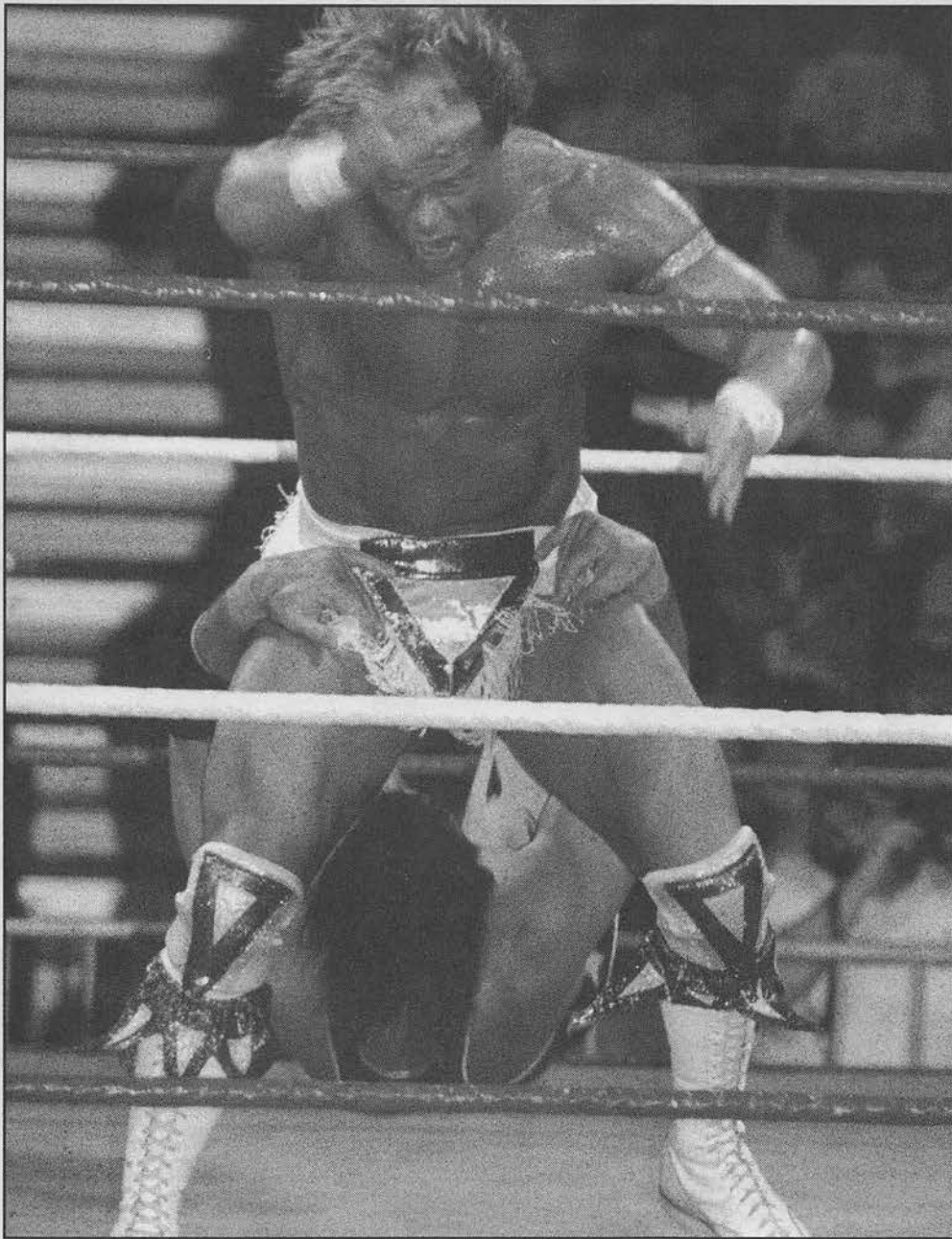
Some people say this is one of Hart's biggest problems: He doesn't complain. A rolling stone may gather no moss, but the squeaky wheel gets the oil. Wrestlers who don't complain often don't get what they want.

"Bret has allowed himself to be forgotten," said a WWF source. "The federation keeps on tossing him these bones, but what does it mean? What Bret really wants and needs is a shot at the World title. This is unprecedented. Who ever heard of a former champion not getting a chance to regain the belt? He should be outraged, but if he is, he's not showing it."

Maybe Hart feels his time will come. Hogan won't have the belt forever and neither will Jannetty. They're bound to lose them, and when they do, rule-breakers will reign over the WWF. That's when Hart will make his move.

This strategy is wrought with danger.

Let's go back to the college



**“My boy is
getting
frustrated,
I’ll tell
you that.”**

**—Stu Hart,
Bret’s father**

Hart pulls Luger away from the ropes into a pinning position. The Luger-Hart matches have been spirited, but any victories Hart gains over Luger have done little or nothing to further his career.

basketball analogy. The Syracuse Orangemen had a very good team this past season, reaching the Big East finals before losing to Seton Hall. That’s where the season ended. The NCAA barred Syracuse from playing in the 64-team national championship tournament.

Maybe this would have been the Orange’s season, with coach Jim Boeheim’s squad returning to the Final Four. But it was all moot because Syracuse was

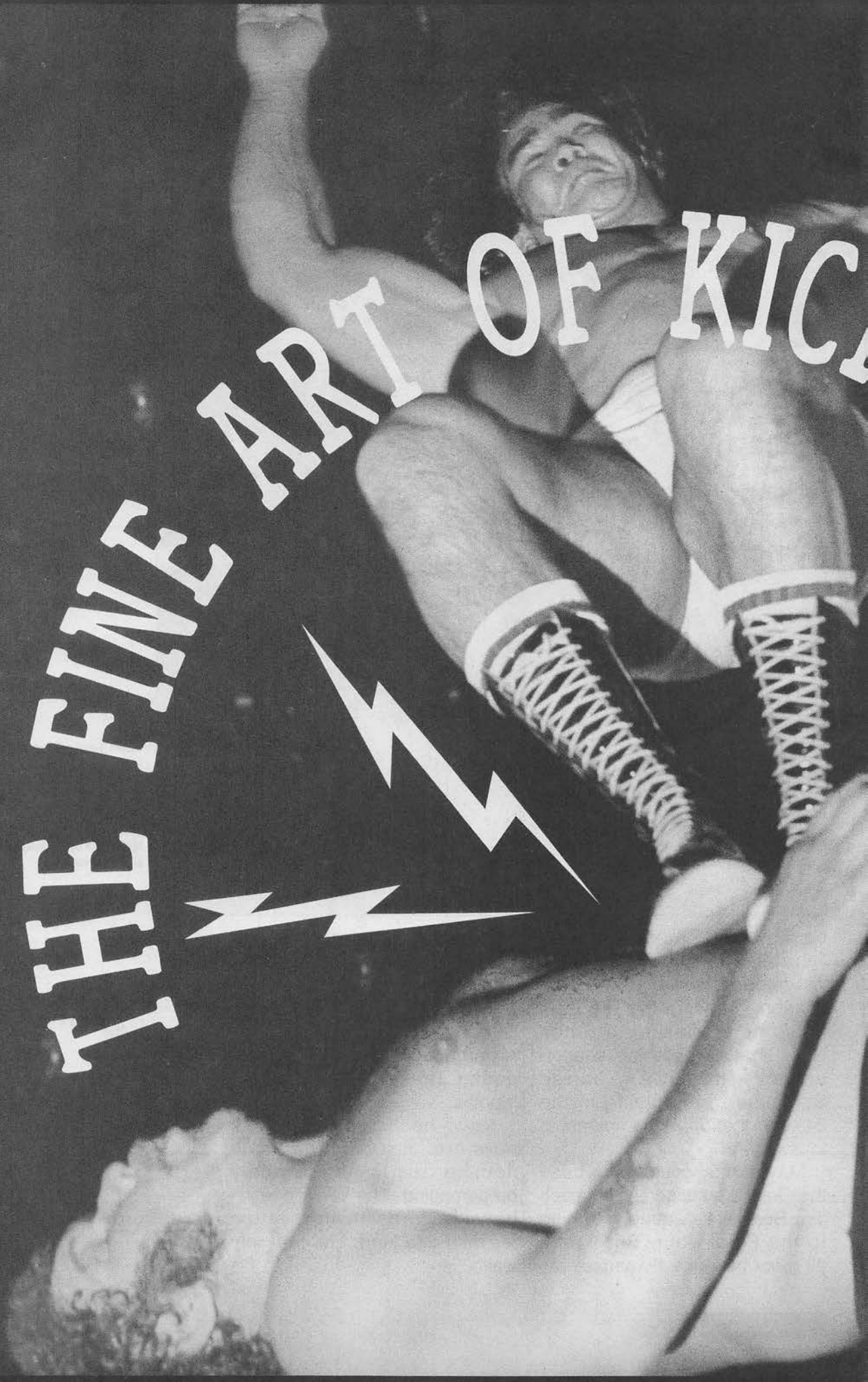
ineligible for the tournament. The moment was lost, the talent wasted.

Wrestlers don’t have indefinite careers. Moments lost can’t be regained. Hart is at a career peak; these are precious months.

Now he is wrestling to nowhere. His victories mean nothing. His losses can only be damaging. The WWF doesn’t have rewards in its system for men like Hart. He can only wait. □



THE FINE ART OF KICK





KICKING

**There's More To It
Than Meets The Feet**

Think your favorite wrestler is a complete wrestler? Think again. If he doesn't possess an effective kick in his arsenal, he may be missing the most effective weapon a wrestler can have

By Chris Bernucca

DURING THE 1980s, wrestling moved away from the smaller, skilled technical wrestler and toward the oversized brawler. It didn't matter what skills you possessed. Unless you were 6'6" and pushing 300 pounds, there wasn't a place for you in the sport's superstar stratosphere.

The 1990s, though, have seen wrestling return to its scientific side. Master technicians like Sting and Bret Hart have become world champions by employing

has been a part of wrestling for as long as the sport has existed. But unlike the headlock, the variety by which the feet can be used as a weapon is almost limitless.

The use of feet is only natural in wrestling, where rules prevent competitors from legally using a closed fist. If one cannot use the upper extremities to strike an opponent, the next best tool is to employ the lower extremities. In fact, the feet and legs are clearly more effective ring weapons than the arms. True, they cannot be moved as quickly and can-

Sting drives his boot into WCW World champion Big Van Vader. Sting's famed rolling savate kick has helped him to keep his bigger foe off-balance.

not be operated with the same dexterity. But the feet and legs are certainly more powerful and, like the hands and arms in boxing, have the potential to end a match with one swift strike.

A kick can be used as a form of defense, such as stopping a charging foe dead in his tracks by placing a foot in his chest or face. Normally, though, it is used as an offensive weapon.

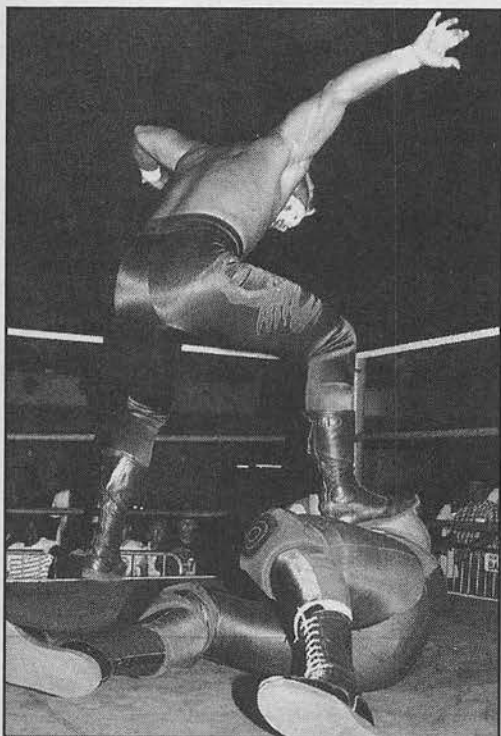
The wrestlers who make best use of their feet are normally the ones who have had extensive training in the martial arts.

Rick Steamboat, a martial arts master, is generally acknowledged as the best

Powerful, timely kicks, like this one delivered by Arn Anderson on Scott Steiner can be more forceful than even the best punches.



Earthquake goes rumbling down to the mat after a kick from Hulk Hogan. Well-placed kicks to the faces of opponents have become one of the "Hulkster's" trademarks.



submission holds and the art of defense. And, every so often, by putting their best foot forward.

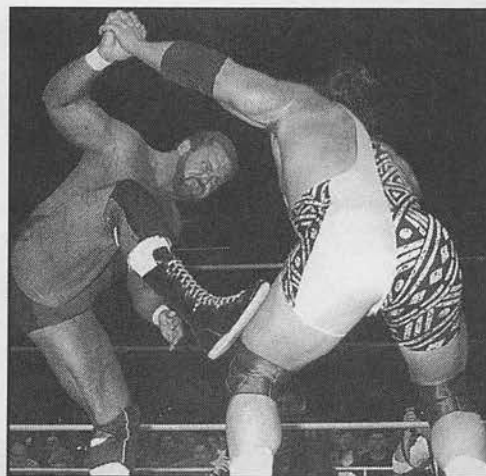
"A well-placed kick can change the momentum of a match," said Sting, who is among the best at using his feet in the ring. "It can turn things in your favor by surprising your opponent. And it can stop you cold when you think you can't be stopped."

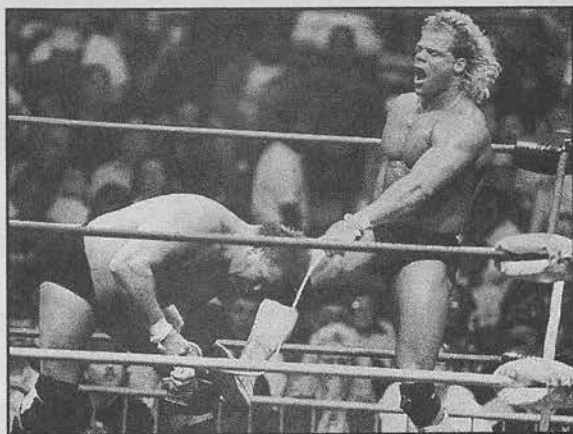
Like the headlock, the kick

with his feet in the sport. His dropkicks are fluid, appearing almost effortless. But that is the result of countless hours of training and discipline. It takes tremendous strength and agility to leap and bring one's foot to a point six feet off the ground while retaining its power.

Steamboat has perhaps the best understanding of the effectiveness of a well-placed kick.

"I can start matches with them, or end matches with them," Steamboat said. "I like to start with them, because they help me loosen up. At the same time, three or four dropkicks in a row to my opponent's chin is going to slow him down."

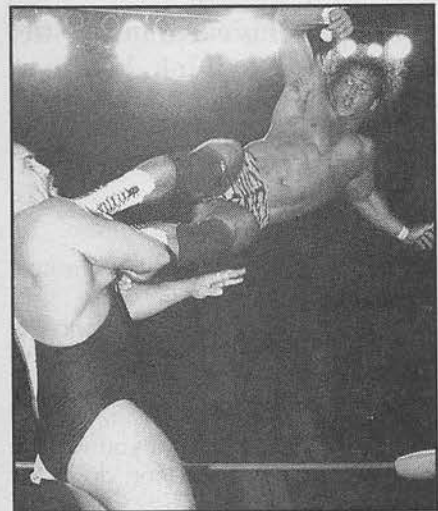




An opponent's momentum can be stopped dead in its tracks by a strong kick such as the blow dished out here on Stan Hansen by Lex Luger.

"You have to know what you're doing," he continued. "You have to connect with your target. If your foot finds nothing but air, you can lay yourself out pretty good. I've done that plenty of times, although not in a while."

While Steamboat can generate his own lift to get his feet airborne, many wrestlers prefer to scale the ropes in order to give their kicks altitude. With more and more wrestlers relying on acrobatic skills, flying kicks have



Dropkicks provide additional power to talented booters, but Brian Pillman proves how kicks from the top rope can really send an opponent reeling and set up a victory.

by starting the feet high and putting your entire body weight behind them instead of wasting the energy needed to deliver a dropkick.

"It's simple gravity, man. If you start from the top turnbuckle, and leap into the air, your feet get to the point where they are four to five feet above their target. With gravity pulling you back to the earth and your body behind them, the force of the kick is definitely increased. With a kick like that, you can finish someone off in no time."

Other wrestlers use less conventional methods to generate force behind their kicks. In combating 400-pound Big Van Vader, Sting has resorted to one of his secret weapons—a rolling savate kick that has both surprised and staggered his bigger foe.

Sting usually begins the kick by bouncing off the ropes toward Vader. He begins his approach as if he were delivering a shoulderbreaker but tucks his head into a front somersault at the last moment, whipping his feet up behind him and into the face or chest of Vader.

"It's very effective, for two reasons," Sting explained. "One, once I get within five feet of Vader, the last thing he's expecting is a kick. He's expecting some sort of frontal attack because he thinks I'm too close

to him to try a kick. Two, by going into the frontward flip, I'm creating torque that gives the kick more power than a conventional kick."

Kicking isn't reserved for small fan favorites. Big rulebreakers can use kicks, too, and some, such as Bam Bam Bigelow, do so very effectively. But whether they be fan favorites or rulebreakers, most wrestlers don't want to put in the time and effort required to become an effective kicker.

"You see a lot of these big guys just standing above their opponent, kicking them from a



"Dr. Death" Steve Williams kicks the head of "The Natural" Dustin Rhodes. Skilled aerialist Rick Steamboat says these types of kicks are painful, but not nearly as effective as dropkicks.

standstill position," said Steamboat. "I'm not going to say that doesn't hurt, because if you can't block it, it's going to hurt some. But it doesn't hurt as much as, say, catching a dropkick flush on the chin. Now *that* hurts."

Steamboat isn't giving away any secrets. Kicking is an art; you either have it, or you don't. And he doesn't shed any tears for foes that are unable to use their feet.

He's too busy getting his kicks. □

become part of nearly every match.

"I like the dropkick, but I like the flying kick better," said Brian Pillman, one-half of the WCW

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off
...One On One

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY and Eddie Gilbert. Now that's a dangerous alliance.

Or is it Hot Stuff?

Believe it or not, one of the biggest bones of contention between Gilbert and Dangerously is what they should call their ECW alliance, which also includes heavyweight champion Magnificent Muraco, TV champion Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, and The Dark Patriot.

But it's not the only bone of contention.

Gilbert was Dark Patriot's arch-rival in the Global Wrestling Federation and the two feuded for months over the heavyweight title. Gilbert was enraged when Dangerously brought Dark Patriot to ECW without being told.

There's more.

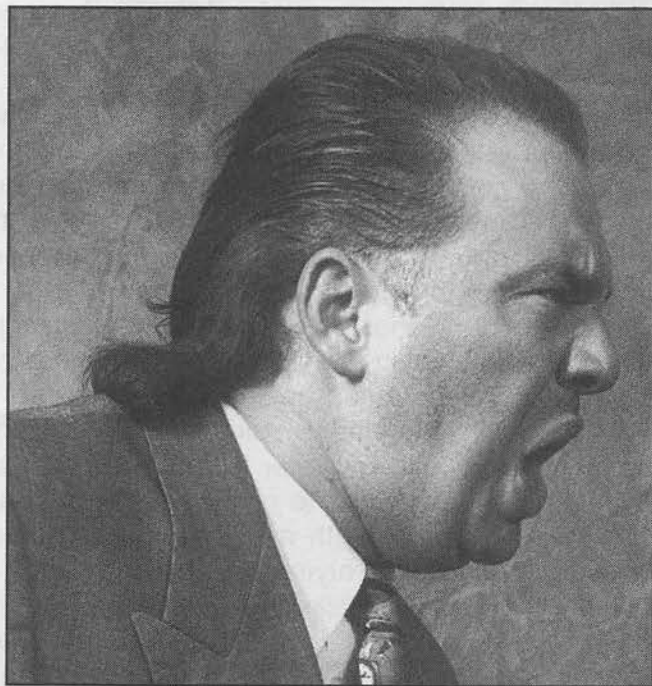
Muraco and Snuka were arch-rivals in the early-1980s. Their feud has been interrupted, but the old sparks were apparent when Muraco and Snuka teamed at WCW's Slamboree '93.

Gilbert can't believe Dangerously formed this alliance whose greatest danger is from within. In any event, he wants the team to be called Hot Stuff International. And he wants Dark Patriot out of town.

The whole situation isn't helped by the fact that Gilbert and Dangerously have bizarre, volatile personalities. Neither man is afraid to say what's on his mind, and both have been known to act unpredictably.

Can Gilbert and Dangerously survive together in ECW, or will the new Dangerous Alliance/Hot Stuff International internally explode and shatter the entire federation?

— ONE O



"Some people were put on this earth to wrestle, some were put on this earth to think. You're a wrestler. I'm a thinker."

—Paul E. Dangerously

Who knows? That's why we brought Gilbert and Dangerously together to continue their argument... "One On One."

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY: Good match the other night, Gilbert. It was good to see the way you, Muraco, and Patriot worked together. I guess that proves my point.

EDDIE GILBERT: And what's that?

PED: You know what I'm talking about. That the new Dangerous Alliance works, and if you'd just give it a chance, it would be better than ever.

EG: Cut it, Paul.

PED: Whaddya mean, cut it, Eddie? Let's look at the facts. The facts are that you, Muraco, Snuka, and Dark Patriot are the most dangerous alliance not just in ECW, but in all, of wrestling,

and if you'd just give it a chance, everything would work out.

EG: Things would work out a lot better if you weren't around. You're just trying to cause trouble again, Paul.

PED: Trouble? I wouldn't think of it! We've got a team, and if you want to break it up, go ahead and do it, but don't blame me.

EG: Don't blame you? Who's the one that brought in Dark Patriot?

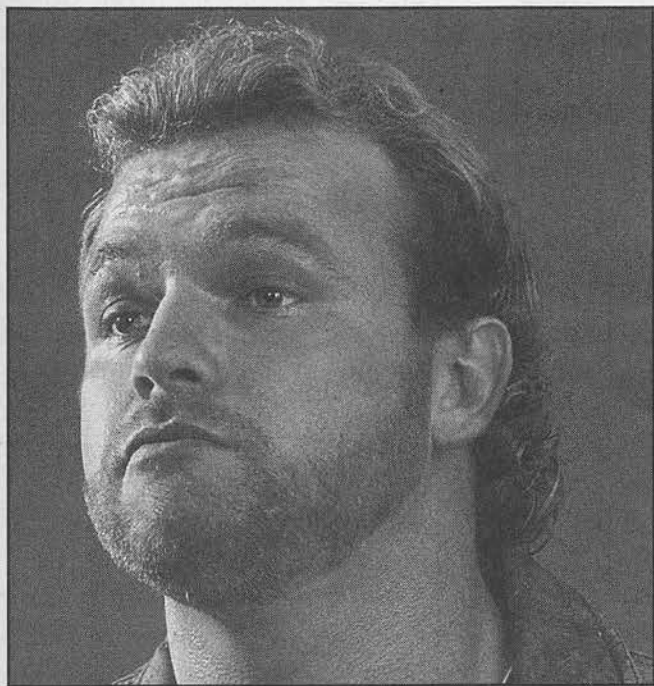
PED: That was me. Good move, no?

EG: No. And who's the genius who got the ridiculous idea of putting Snuka and Muraco together?

PED: That was me, too. Another stroke of genius.

EG: Yeah, if you want to create an explosion. Paul, don't you know anything about wrestling? What were you trying to do, see how bad you can

N ONE —



**"You know my history, and you know that I'm one of those rare individuals who can do both, even if you can't."
—Eddie Gilbert**

make things? Bring enemies together and watch it all fall apart? I thought you wanted to be a success.

PED: And I am a success. The Dangerous Alliance is dominating ECW. Snuka's the TV champ, Muraco's the heavyweight champ, and if you'd cooperate with Patriot, I don't see any reason why you two couldn't be the tag team champions.

EG: Forget it.

PED: Forget it? The problem with you, Gilbert, is that you never learned how to take orders.

EG: That's right. I don't take orders from pip-squeaks carrying cellular telephones. That's why Hot Stuff International was formed.

PED: There you go again with that

Hot Stuff International stuff. I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times, it's The Dangerous Alliance. Are we going to have this argument again?

EG: We're going to have this argument until it's settled the right way. "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert wrestles for nobody but Hot Stuff International...

PED: Nice team play, Gilbert...

EG: This isn't about team play, Dangerously. It's about the facts. The facts are that this organization from here on out is to be known as Hot Stuff International. The facts are that I have no intention of letting bygones be bygones, as you say, with Dark Patriot, especially when you never let me know he was coming in in the first place.

And the facts are that I'm not going to let you make me look bad. Those are the facts. Deal with them.

PED: I'll deal with anything you want. You just refuse to realize what we've got going here. Tell me, Gilbert, what happened when you, Muraco, and DP wrestled those three creeps, Osborne, Cairo, and Winters.

EG: We won. Muraco's a great wrestler and so am I.

PED: And Dark Patriot?

EG: He got in the way, but we won anyway.

PED: Take off the blindfolds, Gilbert.

EG: Remove your tail, Dangerously. Either that or stop sticking it between your legs. What happened afterward?

PED: Funk and Hawk stuck their nose in our business, but that's no big deal.

EG: Yeah, it is. There's a big difference between men like Funk and Hawk and chumps like Cairo, Winters, and Osborne. We've got ourselves a feud here, Dangerously, just in case you have less foresight than I thought, and beating them is going to take everything we've got.

PED: Yup, and we've got it all.

EG: We've got too much. Listen, the best team going in ECW is Gilbert and Gilbert, but you just don't want to hear that.

PED: You know, Gilbert, I think I've figured out the problem. Some people were put on this earth to wrestle, some were put on this earth to think. You're a wrestler. I'm a thinker. We'd be a lot better off if you'd stop thinking and start wrestling.

EG: There's another problem, Dangerously. You don't even know what you're dealing with. You know my history, and you know that I'm one of those rare individuals who can do both, even if you can't.

PED: Let me ask you this, Eddie ...

EG: We're back on a first-name basis?

PED: Just be quiet for a minute. Let me ask you one question: If I asked you about Dark Patriot before I

(Continued on page 56)

One On One

(Continued from page 55)

brought him in, what would you have said?

EG: I would've told you to keep him out of here.

PED: Exactly, and The Dangerous Alliance wouldn't have been as strong as it is.

EG: Sure, but Hot Stuff International would be stronger than ever.

PED: That's not a fact, it's a guess, and it's a wrong guess. Gilbert, you give me two months and I guarantee we'll all be at the top. Swallow your pride for once. Admit you're wrong. Be a team player and you'll see what happens.

EG: I can't believe this! Paul E. Dangerously is actually trying to be the voice of reason! It's ludicrous!

PED: I'm dealing with the facts of life and the facts of this federation. ECW is ours for the taking. There's no time for us to be feuding.

EG: We're not feuding, we're arguing.

PED: Yeah, and it's getting in the way. We need unity.

EG: If it's unity you want, it's unity you'll get. Just don't ask me to team with Dark Patriot, or you'll have a one-on-one match on your hands and the hottest feud you've ever seen.

PED: Some team player.

EG: Some manager.

PED: We're never going to settle this.

EG: Yes we will, when you give in.

PED: And that's never going to happen. □

Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

there a clown at ringside

and comedians doing commentary? If they did away with the gimmicks and went with what the WWF stands for—World Wrestling Federation—it might make a difference.

Then true fans would enjoy wrestling, not a circus.

DIRT WALKER
Lothian, MD

REMEMBERING KERRY

I was very disappointed to see the comments about Kerry Von Erich's death, and the Von Erich family, in the June 1993 issue.

Eddie Ellner has no right to say anything bad about the Von Erichs, dead or alive. They had problems, sure. But Ellner had no right to say what he did in "The Insider." Never compare the Von Erich fans to the

Hulkamaniacs, or anyone else.

And to you, Liz Hunter: Kerry was not a sick man. He never lied to anyone about anything. Everything he said was the truth.

Pro wrestling has lost its greatest competitor ever. But in the hearts of his fans, Kerry Von Erich will never die. The Von Erichs and their fans are very special.

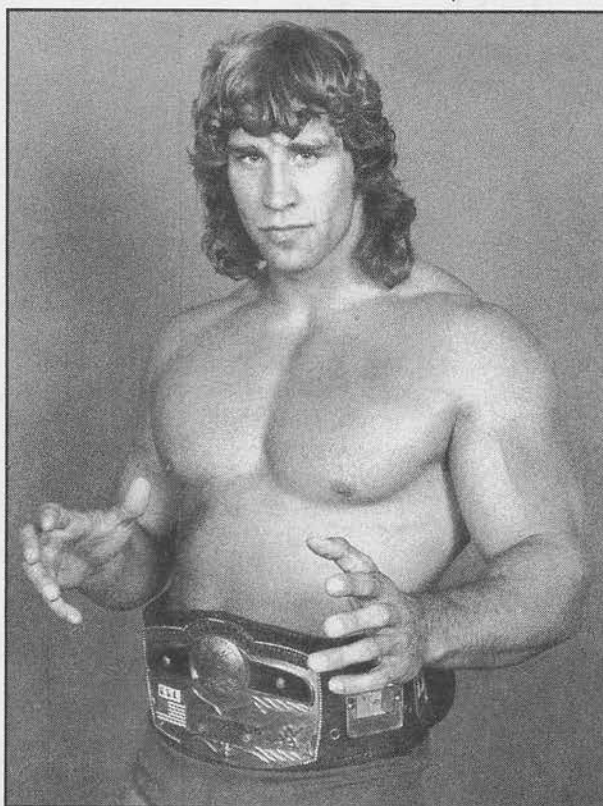
VERONICA GUZMAN
Tucson, AZ

REWRITE REPO

I was glad to see the "Capsule Profile" in the June 1993 issue feature one of my favorite wrestlers, Crush. Your biography of the Hawaiian strongman was very good, except for one minor mistake.

Ax was not the Demolition member who became Repo Man; it's Smash who is now the masked reposessor.

JIM IMBRUGLIA
Medford, MA □



No one, including columnists Eddie Ellner and Liz Hunter, should have the right to denigrate the memory of Kerry Von Erich, argues reader Veronica Guzman.

This Month In...

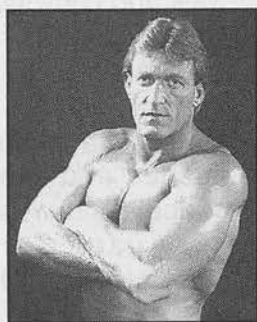
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



**SUPERSTAR
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and **STING** Said It!
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Full-color centerfold of
"MR. WONDERFUL"
PAUL ORNDORFF



PLUS...

WCW Fan Favorites Confess:
"We're Fighting A Losing
Battle!"...Mirror, mirror on the wall,
who wimped out in the midst of a
brawl? **LEX LUGER**: Coward!...**THE
HEAVENLY BODIES** have gone to
hell!...

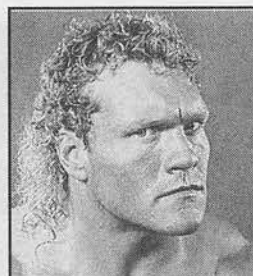
Behind the bizarre
SHERRI-SHANGO alliance

All this—and much more...in the
September 1993 issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

NOW ON SALE!

THE Wrestler

Insiders Reveal: **SID VICIOUS** will
double-cross
BIG VAN VADER



How **MARTY JANNETTY'S**
I-C title win could reunite
THE ROCKERS



PLUS...

THE DANGEROUS ALLIANCE is
back and ready to self-destruct...
RICK RUDE vs. **DAVEY BOY SMITH**:
They may never meet again and
they don't care...
THE AMAZING KID!
Lightning strikes the WWF!

All this—and much more...in the
September 1993 issue of
The Wrestler

NOW ON SALE!

The Insider

continued from page 14

both careers hit bottom, primarily because of weak support from their chosen tag team partners: Vicious' career was annihilated after his posedown with Hulk (Suck the Life From You) Hogan, while Perot, riding high in the polls, shortcircuited his campaign by selecting the courageous, but befuddled Admiral James Stockdale as his running mate.

very first match. Then

among many, many other prognosticators, guaranteed would be his.

Yet, as we head into the latter part of 1993, both men seem poised for significant comebacks. Perot's popularity is greater than ever—though my two cents says the elfin billionaire has peaked too soon and will fade come election time 1996.

But for Vicious, it looks as if his time may have finally come. His 35-second thumping of Van

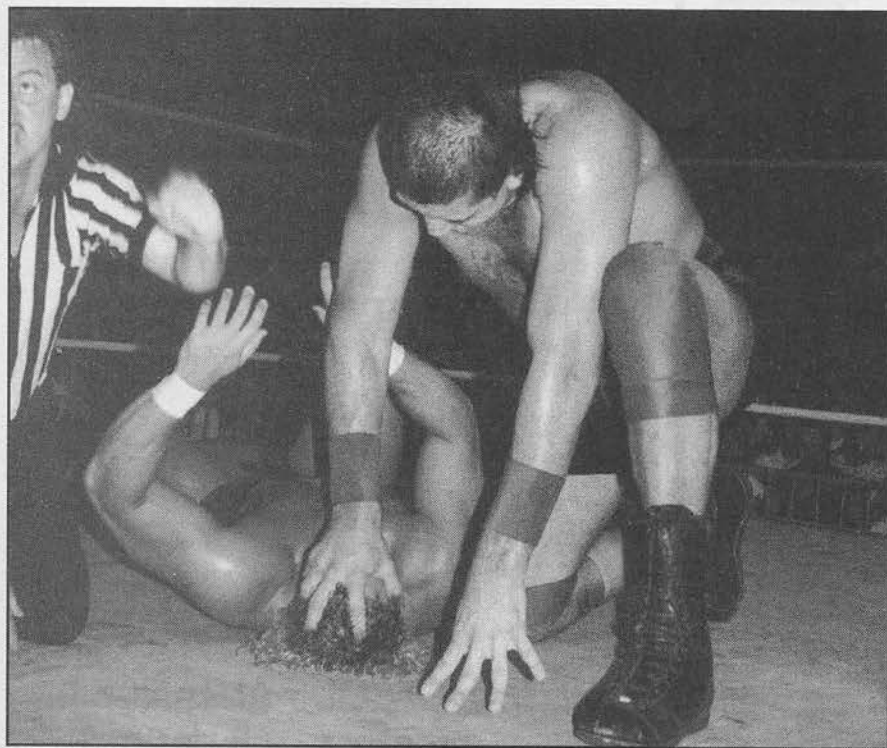
major red flags everywhere. You have a guy, Vicious, who just signed a tremendous contract to jump ship to the WWF. Here is an opportunity for him to send a message everywhere—a victory would rub his talent in the face of WCW kingpins who decided to let him go. It would serve as a warning shot to Hulk Hogan that he was a major force to be reckoned with. It would establish him in the upper echelon of superstars.

It was an opportunity a real world-class athlete like Wayne Gretzky, Michael Jordan, or Barry Bonds would seize. Instead, with the world watching, Vicious drops a match to an Argentinian beanpole who can't walk and chew gum at the same time.

According to Col. Robert Parker, Vicious' new manager, that match was of little consequence and even less significance. "Sid was indifferent at that particular time," the Colonel noted. "He was fed up with the WCW runaround and wanted to end his obligation to them as quickly as possible."

Are the rumors then true? Did Vicious throw the match? "I threw nothing," Sid denied. "It was plain to anyone who watched the match that I got a fast count. Besides, it's ancient history."

Perhaps it was plain to anyone employing a seeing-eye dog. But Sid is right about one thing—that was then, this is now. Vicious has his old name, his old attitude, and remains the sport's most intimidating presence; of course if muscles won titles, Lex Luger would have one. And if ears won elections, Ross'd be sitting atop a phone book in the Oval Office. □



El Gigante, in his pre-stupid bodysuit days, humiliated Vicious by defeating him in just over two minutes. Sid says he was robbed and didn't care about the match anyway.

Finally, and sadly, the talents of both men seemed greatly exaggerated. Perot's recent sniper volleys at the President and the growing discontent among his loyal staff are true indicators that he was, and is, more earflap than substance. Vicious (then Justice) fizzled in his one shot at Hulk Hogan and never approached the success that I,

Hammer at Slamboree '93 all but erased the memory of his 2:13 wipeout at the hands of El Gigante (currently wrestling in the WWF under the name Stupid Bodysuit) in a stretcher match at SuperBrawl I. That match, Vicious' last in WCW, revealed several major physical and mental flaws in Sid's attack, yet it couldn't stop the tidal wave of momentum that carried him to the WWF.

That match should have raised

BACK ISSUES OF



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July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
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March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
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August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
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April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
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February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
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May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.
June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas.
July 1992/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Sherri/Michaels, Madusa.
August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.
September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.
October 1992/Stories include: SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons.
November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.
December 1992/Stories include: Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett.
February 1993/Stories include: LOD, Smoky Mountain, Rude, Jimmy Hart.

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On Assignment

(continued from page 16)

intends to pursue Vader, he would say so, and don't believe for one second that he doesn't intend to pursue him.

For Flair, there is the world title and nothing else. He loves money, but stick a million dollars next to a title belt and Flair will grab the strap every time. He often refers to the NWA/WCW title, which he has held seven times, as "Ric's Crown." So...

"Are you being coy?"

"No comment."

"Are you ducking the subject?"

"No comment."

On the topic of the reunited Four Horsemen, he would not shut up. "We are back, and with Paul Roma we are better than ever." Flair singing the praises of *Paul Roma*?

"This time around, winning takes co-billing with image and attitude, with stylin', and profilin'." Incredible.

The Horsemen embodied the excess, glitz, and self-absorption of the '80s. They once hired a limousine to travel to a helicopter that took them from the Los Angeles Sports Arena to the Forum in Inglewood—a mere 15 miles away. Another limo drove them the 200 yards from the helicopter to the Forum entrance. Attention, Ric: It's 1993.



Flair has returned to WCW as a broadcaster with his own interview segment, entitled "A Flair For The Gold." In Flair's oft-repeated words, he's "back, and better than ever."

"Exactly. Welcome to the age of recycling," he said. "We are back, ready to prove once and for all that the Horsemen rule. Anyone can win a match. Only the Horsemen can do it right."

Does it concern you that Sid Vicious has returned to ally with Vader, and that Davey Boy Smith and Sting have joined forces?

"You're not listening, Liz," he said for the hundredth time. "We are The Four Horsemen. We fear no man, or group of men. In time you will refer to this federation as the Horsemen's WCW. It can only help you with your deadlines. Now you know who is going to win every match, every time. We are back. And better than ever."

You want to know how many

times Flair repeated "back, and better than ever?" In a two-hour span, he said it 31 times.

When I asked him how he felt physically, since he hadn't wrestled yet: "I'm better than ever."

When I asked if he could trust Arn Anderson since his recent stint was with the Rock 'n' Roll Express: "Arn's back, and better than ever."

I turned off the recorder. I had to leave—or I would never get better.

"Aren't you going to ask me about Space Mountain, Lizzie?"

I started walking away.

"It's back, and better than ever, too!" □

If you can answer the
following questions, you
could be the next

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Actual questions

Which young WCW star is known as
"The Natural"?

- 1) Steve Austin
- 2) Scotty the Body
- 3) Dustin Rhodes
- 4) Robert Redford

Who portrayed Thunderlips in the
film *Rocky III*?

- 1) Hulk Hogan
- 2) Lou Albano
- 3) Jesse Ventura
- 4) Rick Martel

Which of the following wrestlers is
"Ravishing"?

- 1) Ron Ritchie
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Rick Steamboat
- 4) Rick Rude

True or False: Jesse Ventura was a
member of the elite Navy Seals?

- 1) True
- 2) False

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**Behind The
Dressing
Room Door**

Continued
from page 12

losing is the great motivator.

"Losing makes winning possible," once said Bob Nystrom, whose overtime goal in 1980 gave the New York Islanders the first of four consecutive Stanley Cups. The Isles of that era had an innate fear of losing; those fears were rarely realized.

"The problem is that when you lose, there's the threat that it might become a habit," Arn Anderson said. "That's a bad habit to get. Winning is contagious and so is losing. I think if you asked any wrestler what's the last thing he wants to happen to him in the ring, he'd say lose. For once I agree with Sting. Heck, losing hurts worse than any broken bone."

There have been stories told about wrestlers who, sitting in a hospital after suffering a serious injury in a match, are told that they won the match by disqualification. A smile comes to their faces. They suddenly laugh. The injuries don't hurt so bad.

"I know what they're talking about," Van Hammer said. "I'd exchange a broken leg for a win over Vicious any day. The thing now is not to get down. Vicious beat me once, but he caught me by surprise.

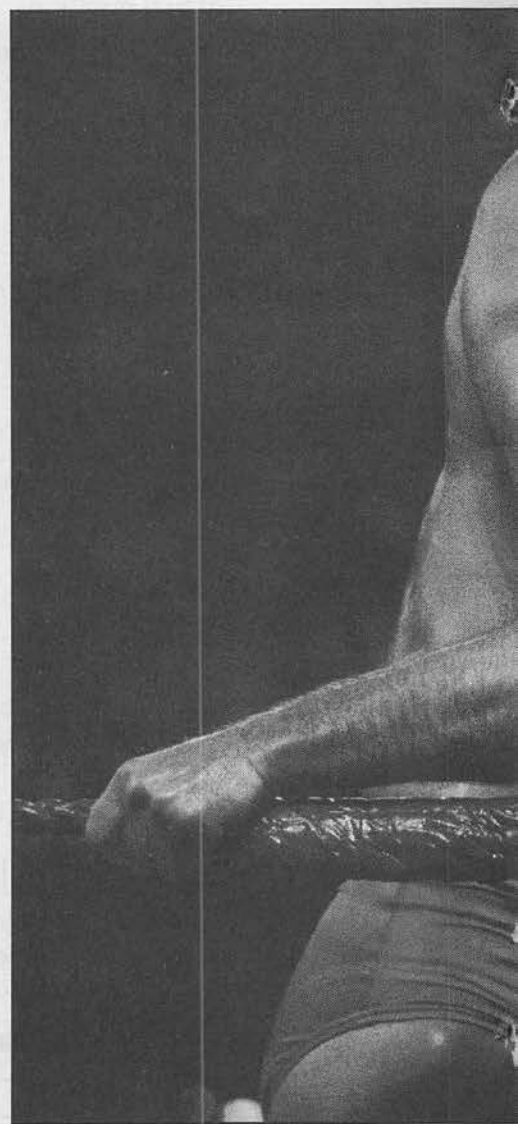
"Heck, 35 seconds?"

Athletes love to say that a loss is a loss and it doesn't matter how much you lose by.

sports often talk about their fear of losing. Glory is the goal, but fear of

10-0 means as much as 2-1. A loss in 35 seconds means as much as a loss in 60 minutes. Don't believe it.

"I was on TV," Hammer said. "My friends and family back home don't get much of a chance to watch me live. I'm sure there was a party going on and I ruined the party."



The fear of losing is often so great that some wrestlers refused to discuss it for this article. Ric Flair, the seven-time NWA/WCW World champion, turned and walked out the door when the subject was broached.

"Don't even want to talk about

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it," Flair said. "Don't know anything about it."

Some wrestlers refuse to associate with a wrestler who's on a losing streak or who just suffered a bad loss, as if the losing germ can be passed from man-to-man. Sound crazy? It isn't.

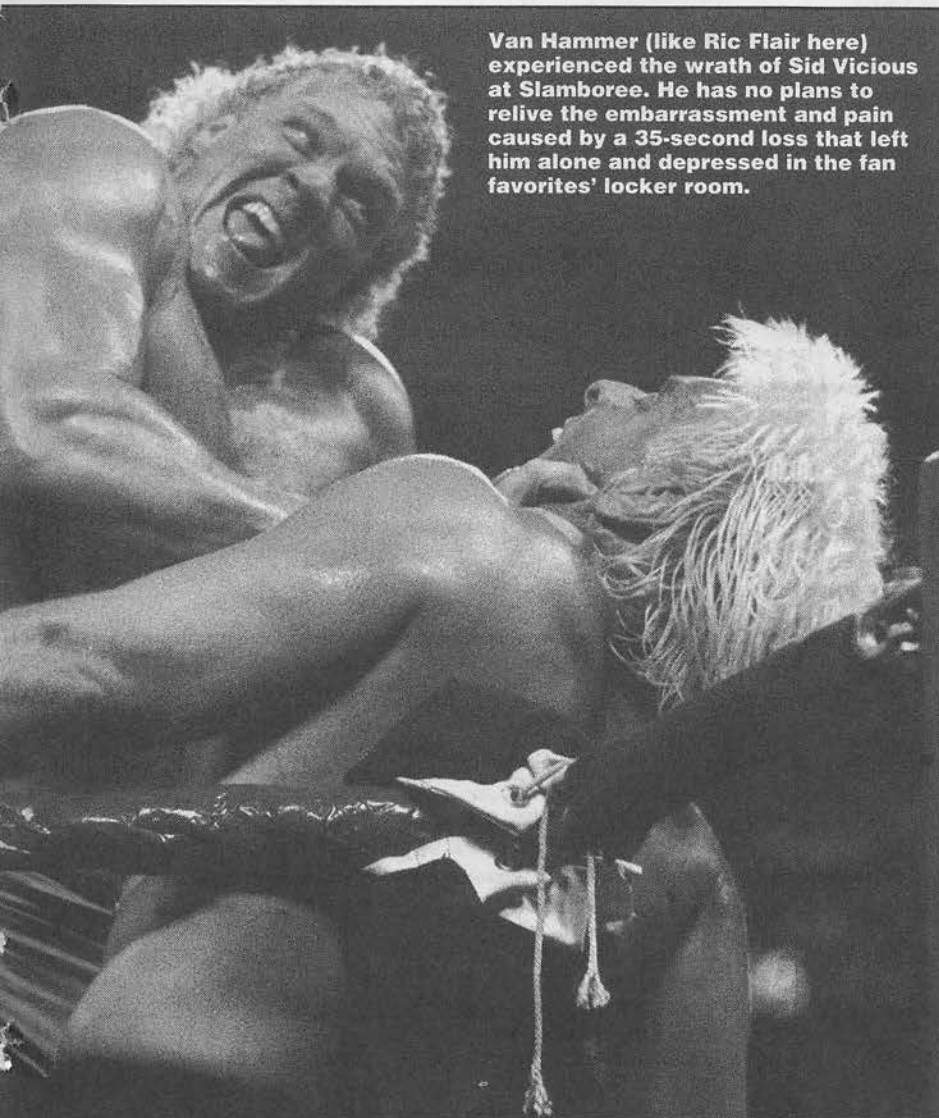
"You don't want to get some-

understood.

"I'd do the same thing," Hammer said. "But I know who my friends are, and this won't change anything."

The only thing that will change, he insists, is the way he prepares for a match. He'll turn it up from the start and be ready for anything. There'll be

Van Hammer (like Ric Flair here) experienced the wrath of Sid Vicious at Slamboree. He has no plans to relive the embarrassment and pain caused by a 35-second loss that left him alone and depressed in the fan favorites' locker room.



body else's negative vibes," said Barry Windham. "You're trying to stay positive at all times. There's no such thing as a pessimistic champion."

Some wrestlers consoled Hammer after the loss, but many refused to go near him. Call those people mean? He

no more 35-second losses to Sid Vicious, he vows.

"No way," Hammer said. "I know how much this hurts and I don't want to go through this again. No way."

Losing teaches the toughest lessons. The most valuable ones, too.

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OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—BIG VAN VADER

(1) WCW World champion

2—LEX LUGER

(9) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

3—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(-) No. 1 contender: WCW World title

4—BARRY WINDHAM

(3) NWA champion

5—MARTY JANNETTY

(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

6—STING

(5) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

7—SHAWN MICHAELS

(4) No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title

8—CURT HENNIG

(6) No. 2 contender: WWF I-C title

9—THE KID

(-) No. 3 contender: WWF I-C title

10—TRACEY SMOTHERS

(-) Smoky Mountain champion

11—YOKOZUNA

(7) No. 1 contender: WWF World title

12—PAUL ORNDORFF

(12) WCW TV champion

13—HULK HOGAN

(8) WWF World champion

14—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

(-) USWA Southern champion

15—BRET HART

(2) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

WCW

1—BIG VAN VADER

(1) 445, Denver, CO

2—BARRY WINDHAM

(3) 263, Sweetwater, TX

3—DUSTIN RHODES

(2) 254, Austin, TX

4—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(-) 245, Leeds, England

5—STING

(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA

6—RICK RUDE

(6) 246, Robbinsdale, MN

7—SID VICIOUS

(-) 318, West Memphis, AR

8—ARN ANDERSON

(9) 249, Minneapolis, MN

9—PAUL ORNDORFF

(7) 253, Brandon, FL

10—MAXX PAYNE

(10) 350, Iowa City, IA

11—RICK STEAMBOAT

(5) 238, Honolulu, HI

12—RON SIMMONS

(8) 260, Warner Robins, GA

13—JOHNNY B. BADD

(15) 234, Macon, GA

14—ERIK WATTS

(11) 262, Oklahoma City, OK

15—THE PRISONER

(-) 271, Oakland, CA

WWF

1—HULK HOGAN

(1) 292, Venice Beach, CA

2—MARTY JANNETTY

(-) 230, Columbia, GA

3—LEX LUGER

(6) 268, Chicago, IL

4—CURT HENNIG

(3) 235, Minneapolis, MN

5—BRET HART

(4) 235, Calgary, Alberta

6—SHAWN MICHAELS

(2) 220, San Antonio, TX

7—YOKOZUNA

(5) 505, Samoa

8—TATANKA

(8) 260, Miami, FL

9—THE KID

(-) 201, Tampa, FL

10—RANDY SAVAGE

(11) 245, Sarasota, FL

11—CRUSH

(-) 310, Honolulu, HI

12—THE UNDERTAKER

(9) 320, Dallas, TX

13—MR. HUGHES

(-) 308, Kansas City, KS

14—DOINK

(10) 236, parts unknown

15—ADAM BOMB

(-) 306, Three Mile Island, PA

MOST POPULAR

1—HULK HOGAN

Last month: No. 2 Most Popular

2—DAVEY BOY SMITH

Last month: No. 5 Most Popular

3—MARTY JANNETTY

Last month: unrated

4—STING

Last month: No. 1 Most Popular

5—BRET HART

Last month: No. 3 Most Popular

6—DUSTIN RHODES

Last month: No. 6 Most Popular

7—THE KID

Last month: unrated

8—CURT HENNIG

Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

9—2 COLD SCORPIO

Last month: No. 15 Most Popular

10—JEFF JARRETT

Last month: No. 11 Most Popular

11—ARN ANDERSON

Last month: No. 13 Most Popular

12—TRACEY SMOTHERS

Last month: No. 14 Most Popular

13—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Last month: No. 12 Most Popular

14—RANDY SAVAGE

Last month: unrated

15—RON SIMMONS

Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

1—BIG VAN VADER

Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

2—YOKOZUNA

Last month: No. 4 Most Hated

3—LEX LUGER

Last month: unrated

4—RICK RUDE

Last month: No. 5 Most Hated

5—BARRY WINDHAM

Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

6—PAUL ORNDORFF

Last month: No. 7 Most Hated

7—SID VICIOUS

Last month: unrated

8—TONY ANTHONY

Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

9—MR. HUGHES

Last month: unrated

10—SHAWN MICHAELS

Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

11—PAPA SHANGO

Last month: unrated

12—BAM BAM BIGELOW

Last month: No. 6 Most Hated

13—RAZOR RAMON

Last month: unrated

14—MAXX PAYNE

Last month: No. 12 Most Hated

15—DOINK

Last month: No. 2 Most Hated

TAG TEAMS

1—STEVE AUSTIN & BRIAN PILLMAN

(1) WCW World tag team champions

2—HULK HOGAN & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title

3—THE HEADSHRINKERS

(14) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title

4—2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL

(9) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title

5—MONEY INC.

(3) WWF World tag team champions

6—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(8) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

7—RICK STEAMBOAT & SHANE DOUGLAS

(4) No. 2 contenders: WCW tag title

8—REX KING & STEVE DOLL

(7) USWA tag team champions

9—RICK RUDE & PAUL ORNDORFF

(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW tag title

10—RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(2) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title

11—STING & DAVEY BOY SMITH

(-) No. 4 contenders: WCW tag title

12—TOM PRICHARD & JIM DELRAY

(5) No. 1 contenders: SMW tag title

13—JERRY LAWLER & KOKO B. WARE

(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

14—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS

(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title

15—FLAMING YOUTH & C. C. II

(-) PWF tag team champions

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue.

For period ended June 1, 1993

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENTA KOBASHI & TSUYOSHI KIKUCHI
(May 25, 1992; from Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas; Miyago, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

***ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** DAN KROFFAT
(May 21, 1993; from Masanobu Fuchi; Sapporo, Japan)

***ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** TOSHIKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUÉ
(May 20, 1993; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Sapporo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: DEBBIE MALENKO
(February 10, 1993; from Kuoro Ito; Kumamoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: AKIRA HOKUTO
(November 26, 1992; from Kyoko Inoue; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DYNAMITE KANSAI & MAYUMI OZAKI
(April 11, 1993; from Minami Toyota & Toshiyo Yamada; Osaka, Japan)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: HAWK
(December 20, 1992; from Rambo; Bremen, Germany)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION EUROPEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
MAD BULL BUSTER & LARRY CAMERON
(July 11, 1992; for vacant title over Miles Zno & Steve Regal; Graz, Austria)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(July 11, 1992; for vacant title over Bob Orton Jr.; Graz, Austria)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(To be determined in upcoming tournament)

ECW CHAMPION: DON MURACO
(April 3, 1993; from The Sandman; Philadelphia, PA)

***ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** THE SUPER DESTROYERS
(May 15, 1993; from The Suicide Blonds; Philadelphia, PA)

FUTUREWAVE WRESTLING AUSTRALIA CHAMPION: MR. DAMAGE
(December 10, 1992; by official's decision; Melbourne, Australia)

GLWA CHAMPION: IVAN KOLOFF
(July 11, 1992; from Psycho Mike; Willowick, OH)

GWLF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CALVIN KNAPP
(February 26, 1993; from Alex Porteau; Dallas, TX)

GWLF NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: STEVIE RAY
(February 5, 1993; from Rod Price; Dallas, TX)

GWLF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by The Bad Breed)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VLADIMIR KOLOFF
(October 17, 1992; battle royal final over Thunderfoot II; Girard, OH)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by The Thunderfoots)

IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE
(July 14, 1991; from Jules Strongbow; Sydney, Australia)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991; from The Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY
(May 9, 1992; tournament final over The Canadians; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: THE GREAT MUTA
(August 16, 1992; from Riki Choshu; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENSUKE SASAKI & HAWK
(December 14, 1992; from Scott Norton & Tony Halme; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER
(January 4, 1993; from Ultimo Dragon; Tokyo, Japan)

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: A.J. FREELY
(November 23, 1992; from Bruno Bekker; Auckland, New Zealand)

NWA CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM
(February 21, 1993; from The Great Muta; Asheville, NC)

NWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE AUSTIN & BRIAN PILLMAN
(March 2, 1993; from Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas; Atlanta, GA)

PWA CHAMPION: THE HATER
(October 20, 1992; from Charlie Norris; Minneapolis, MN)

PWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LIGHTNING KID & JERRY LYNN
(September 28, 1992; for held-up title over Tony DeNucci & Tommy Ferrara; Fridley, MN)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

***PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
AKIRA TAUÉ & TOSHIKI KAWADA
(May 20, 1993; Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Sapporo, Japan)

PWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ITALIAN STALLION
(July 7, 1990; from Russian Assassins; War, WV)

PWF JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GEORGE SOUTH
(June 1, 1991; tournament final; Charlotte, NC)

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FLAMING YOUTH & CRUEL CONNECTION II
(May 1, 1993; from The Russian Assassins; Sugar Grove, NC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP
(most recently held by Tracey Smothers)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEAVENLY BODIES
(January 18, 1993; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Newton, NC)

USWA CHAMPION: PAPA SHANGO
(May 3, 1993; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(May 1, 1993; from Jeff Jarrett; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE DOLL & REX KING
(April 12, 1993; from The Moondogs; Memphis, TN)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANADIAN VAMPIRE CASANOVA
(January 31, 1993; from El Canek; Naucalpan City, Mexico)

UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOUG FURNAS & DAN KROFFAT
(March 7, 1993; from The Villanos; Naucalpan City, Mexico)

UWF INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(September 21, 1992; from Gary Albright; Osaka, Japan)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP
(most recently held by Dustin Rhodes)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER
(March 17, 1993; from Sting; Dublin, Ireland)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE AUSTIN & BRIAN PILLMAN
(March 2, 1993; from Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat; Atlanta, GA)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA
(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TARZAN GOTO & GREGORY VERITCHEV
(May 24, 1992; from Horace Boulder & Sabu; Tokyo, Japan)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: YUKIHIRO KANEMURR
(December 18, 1992; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Fukushima, Japan)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICKY SANTANA & RAY GONZALEZ
(February 21, 1993; from Mohammad Hussein & El Vigilante; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(Most recently held by Dick Murdoch)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON
(November 28, 1992; from Dick Murdoch; Manati, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LA TIGRESA
(April 17, 1993; from Sasha; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

***WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION:** MARTY JANNETT
(May 17, 1993; from Shawn Michaels; New York City, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN
(April 4, 1993; from Yokozuna; Las Vegas, NV)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MONEY INC.
(October 13, 1992; from The Natural Disasters; Regina, Saskatchewan)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History



TARZAN TYLER vs. YVON ROBERT JR.

JULY 1974

After Tarzan Tyler had beaten Yvon Robert Jr., the loser complained that all Tyler "wanted to do was throw punches," adding: "If he wants to wrestle, I'll wrestle him. If he wants to box, then let him be man enough to tell me." Tyler told him, all right, and they agreed to a hybrid match in Montreal. But gloves were unnecessary in this shot, as Tyler kicks his rival and a friend comes to Robert's aid while referee Bob Cleroux is distracted. The last laugh went to Robert, who posted a second-round knockout.

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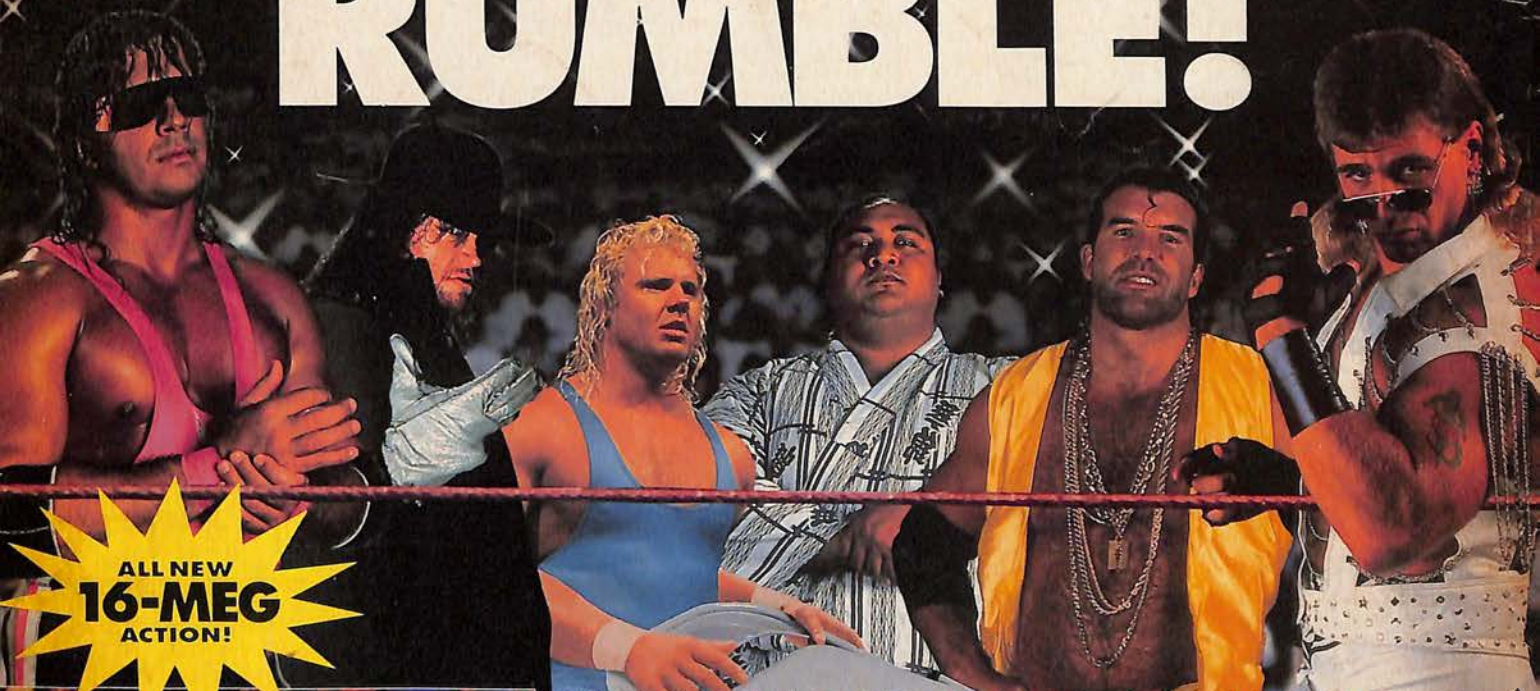
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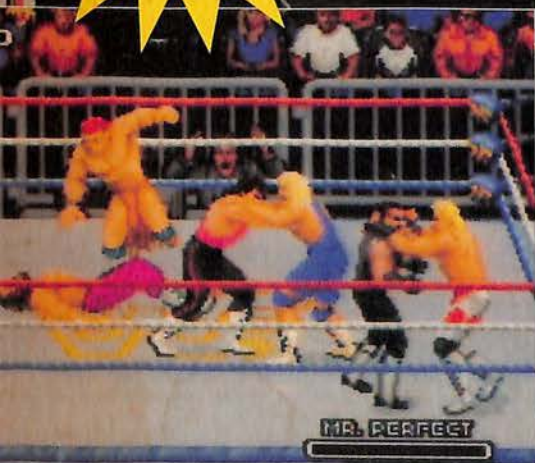


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